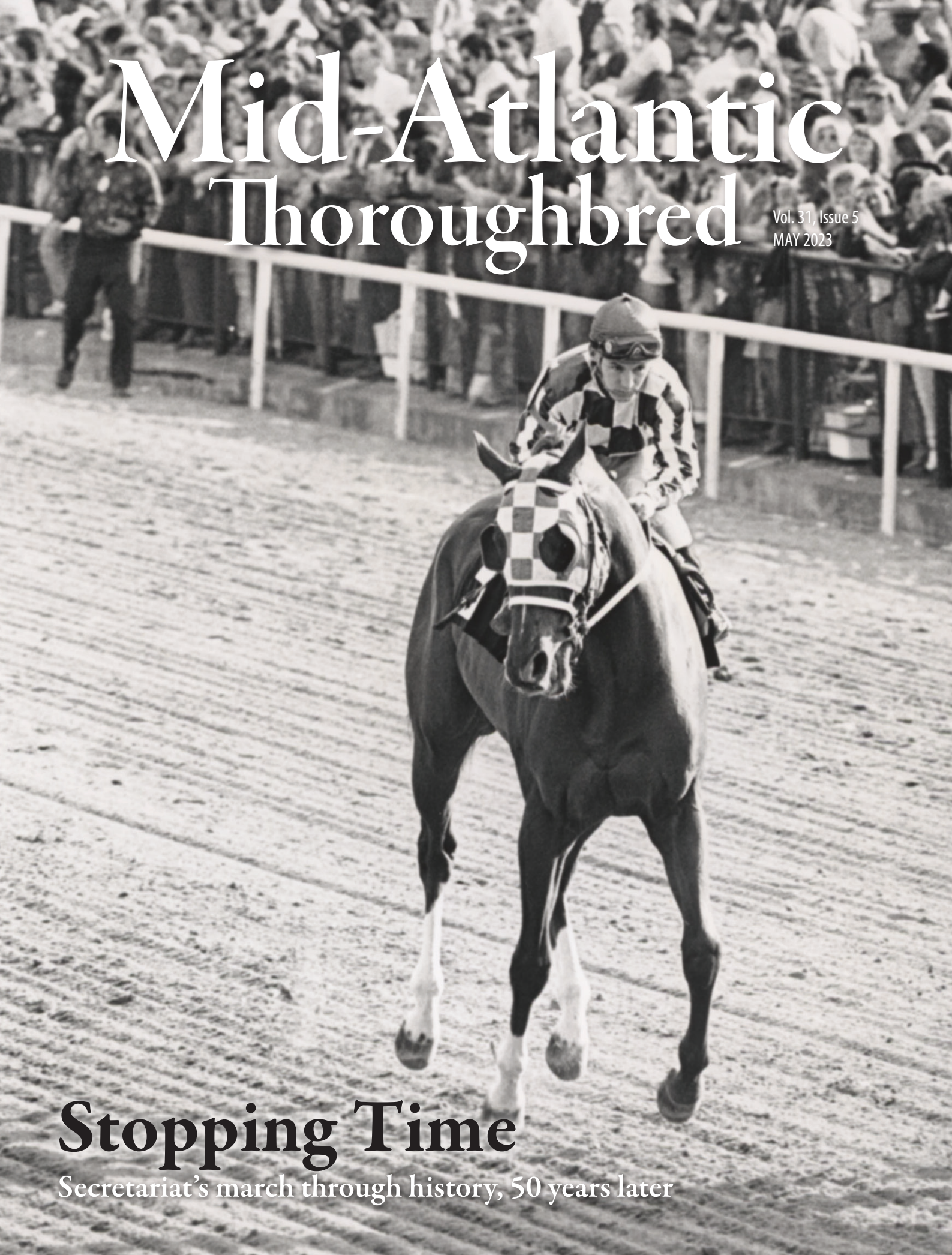


Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

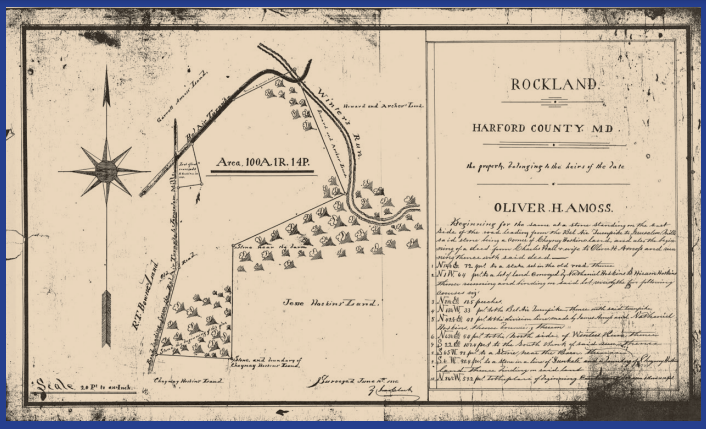
Vol. 31, Issue 5
MAY 2023

Stopping Time

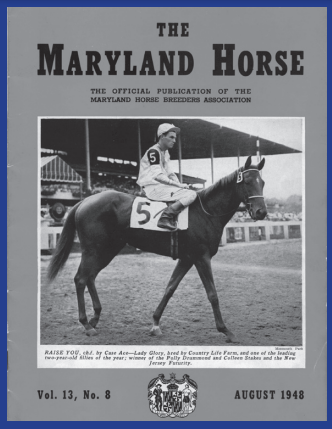
Secretariat's march through history, 50 years later

Celbrating 90 Years
Country Life Farm, est. 1933

Founder Adolphe Pons

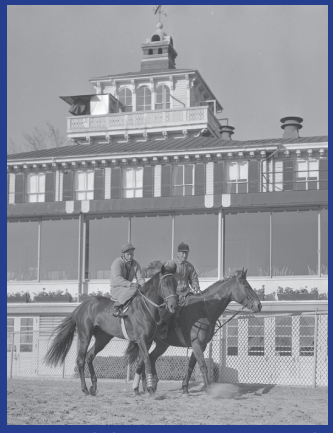


Original plat of Rockland (Country Life) Farm



CLF-bred Raise You, dam of Raise a Native

Second generation John and Joe Pons



CLF-sired classic winner Carry Back

Country Life Farm

Third generation Josh and Mike Pons

CLF-foaled Hall of Famer Elkridge

CLF-born top Maryland-bred of all time CIGAR

In 1933, horseman Adolphe Pons left his New York City office for the verdant farmland of Maryland. Three generations later, his Country Life Farm exemplifies the vision of its founder as one of the most influential farms in the state.

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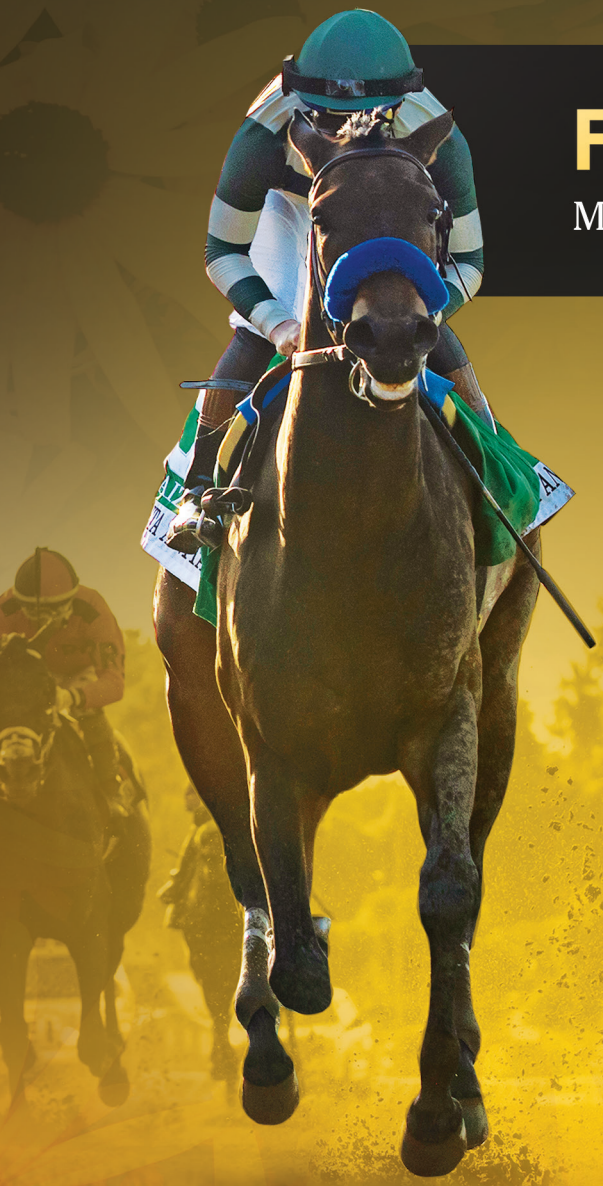

FAIZA

Midlantic May 2YO Grad

Midlantic May

TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING

MONDAY & TUESDAY,
MAY 22 - 23, 2023 ▪ 11 AM

Under Tack Show: **May 16 - 18**
8 AM | Timonium, Maryland

PLUS, NEW FOR 2023...

Midlantic June

TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023

Under Tack Show: **June 26**
Timonium, Maryland

Fasig-Tipton
125 Years

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Secretariat awed everyone at 1973 Preakness

Fifty years ago Secretariat was the talk of Pimlico Race Course, the Preakness and racing. Then he lived up to it with a performance for the ages. Some people who were there help relive it. By Joe Clancy. Page 28

Regional breeders dreaming of Derby

Angel of Empire and Forte, major players on the 3-year-old scene this year as the Triple Crown season approached, represent the region on racing's biggest stage. By Joe Clancy. Page 38

Owners team up for success

Gill Johnston and Sharon Sheppard have been at the ownership game for decades, and enjoyed a Carolina Cup win with English import Caramelised (GB). By Joe Clancy. Page 42

Trackside – Scheffres finds success at Laurel Park

Owner, breeder and now farm owner Michael Scheffres is enjoying the ride with 2023 stakes horses Factor It In and Mavilus in the barn of Carlos Mancilla. By John Piassek. Page 46

On our cover: In an unpublished (until now) image, Triple Crown winner and all-time great Secretariat gallops to the start before the 1973 Preakness Stakes at Pimlico. *Photo by Cappy Jackson*

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63 **Palace Malice** colt o/o Blue Grass Mary (Bluegrass Cat) NY-bred
237 **Mor Spirit** colt o/o K C's Songofprayer (Songandaprayer) IN-bred
257 **Practical Joke** filly o/o Line Of Best Fit (Trajectory) MD-bred
288 **Force The Pass** filly o/o Matty's Sensation (Stephen Got Even) MD-bred, MM
312 **Practical Joke** filly o/o Monkah (Distorted Humor) KY-bred
494 **Force The Pass** colt o/o Success At Sunup (Successful Appeal) MD-bred
497 **War Dancer** filly o/o Sunshine Gal (Congrats) NY-bred
510 **The Factor** gelding o/o Tango Run (Run Away and Hide) KY-bred
564 **Golden Lad** filly o/o Waltzing Cat (More Than Ready) MD-bred, MM

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Open M-F, 9-5

Check out MarylandHorse.com/library for our upcoming monthly events

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 31, Issue 5

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Post Time

BIG HORSE. A larger-than-life bronze of 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat got some touching up after a cross-country trip from Oklahoma to Virginia in April. The sculpture, by Jocelyn Russell, stopped in Ashland, Va., as part of a 50th anniversary tour. For more, see secretariatforvirginia.com *Patricia McQueen*

Say It Again

"I have people complimenting you on the article and asking if they can bring him carrots!"
Owner Mimi Voss, about March's Next Chapters subject and 30-year-old celebrity Sam Sullivan

"You can't read it straighter."
Runnymede Farm night watchman Calvin Smith, on the crooked handwriting of broodmare manager Jim Bergen

"When you think of all the moving parts that have to come together for success, you're so appreciative and so thankful for it all – the people in the barn, the horses, all of it."
Owner Sharon Sheppard, on winning a race

"I've run out of synonyms for exciting right now. I'll have to get out the thesaurus."
Virginia breeder Amy Moore, about what it would be like to watch Forte win the Kentucky Derby

"Everybody in Pennsylvania should be proud and encouraged that a good horse can come out of Pennsylvania. We're trying to show that."
Christian Black, breeder of Kentucky Derby hopeful Angel of Empire

"It was definitely a hard way to make an easy living."
Retired assistant starter Frank Blind, about working on the gate crew

Names of the Month

Hov Lane. Robert Gerczak's 4-year-old filly, second twice at Laurel Park this year, is by Baltimore Bob out of Freeway Fun.

Merger of Equals. The 4-year-old filly, fourth at Charles Town in late March, is by Unified out of Pick Up Line.

Bank Card. Owner/trainer/breeder Crystal Pickett's 4-year-old filly, third at Charles Town in February, is out of Where's My Money.

Go Figure

5 States represented by winners at Laurel Park March 18 as horses bred in Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and California won.

1 Winner for stallion Irish War Cry on St. Patrick's Day (of course). Irish Lace won the finale at Laurel Park for all the hunch players.

8 Consecutive wins for Dulcimer Dame at Charles Town – a starter allowance Nov. 10, 2022 and has added seven this year (three in March).

4 Trainers with between 14 and 15 wins at Penn National through April 18. Kim Graci (15), Bruce Kravets (14), Tim Kreiser (14) and Brandon Kulp (14) were battling atop the standings.

3.7 Million dollars wagered on the Preakness Stakes card at Pimlico Race Course in 1973. Adjusted for inflation, the figure is equivalent to about $25.8 million now. There were nine races, and all wagering was on-track.

90 Years since Adolphe Pons (grandfather of current owners Josh and Mike Pons) bought Rockland – now Country Life Farm – in Bel Air, Md.

EST'D 1919
BLACK-EYED SUSAN DAY

FRI/MAY 19

BALTIMORE / MD

STAKES CLOSING TUE/MAY 9, 2023

$300,000	THE GEORGE E. MITCHELL BLACK-EYED SUSAN STAKES - GII *Fillies - Three Year Olds // 1 and 1/8 Miles*
$250,000	THE PIMLICO SPECIAL - GIII *Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 3/16 Miles*
$150,000	THE MISS PREAKNESS STAKES - GIII *Fillies - Three Year Olds // Six Furlongs*
$100,000	THE ALLAIRE DUPONT DISTAFF STAKES - LISTED *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/8 Miles*
$100,000	THE HILLTOP STAKES *Fillies - Three Year Olds // 1 Mile // Turf*
$100,000	THE VERY ONE STAKES *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // 5 Furlongs // Turf*

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Milestones

Sold:

For $400,000, Virginia-bred broodmare K P Slickem, a half-sister to the dam of likely Kentucky Derby-G1 favorite Forte, at Fasig-

THOROSTRIDE

Tipton's April digital sale. Consigned by Mulholland Farm, the 7-year-old mare topped the entire sale on a bid by Champion Equine and led a trio of six-figure broodmare purchases. In foal to Raging Bull (Fr), K P Slickem was bred by Morgan's Ford Farm and sold for $47,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2017 yearling sale. She raced for buyer Karl Pergola through 14 starts in New Mexico, Arkansas and California – winning twice and placing six times including three stakes at Sunland Park. The daughter of Include produced a colt by Mail (another Virginia-bred raced by Pergola) in 2021. K P Slickem's half-sister Queen Caroline, a daughter of Violence also bred by Morgan's Ford, produced Forte in 2020. Champion 2-year-old male last year, he opened 2023 with wins in the Fountain of Youth-G2 and Florida Derby-G1 and was being pointed for the Kentucky Derby-G1 May 6. In other spring sales, three regional-bred 2-year-olds sold for six figures at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March sale – a Pennsylvania-bred Bernardini filly out of the Storm Cat mare Rhys, a New Jersey-bred filly by Bucchero out of Rate Change (by Exchange Rate), and a Maryland-bred Munnings colt out of the Discreetly Mine mare Discreet Deceit. The Bernardini filly was bred by Blackstone Farm and purchased by Prince Saud bin Salman Racing Stable for $275,000. Blackstone sold the filly for $170,000 at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga select yearling sale last year. The Bucchero filly, a January foal bred by Kelly Lupton and purchased by Hubert Guy Bloodstock for $140,000, was sold for the third time, all at OBS sales. Her consignor, Thorostock LLC, purchased her at last October's yearling sale for $37,000. She sold initially as a short yearling for $15,000 at the mixed sale in January. The Munnings colt, bred by Jay Addison Reese, was purchased by Gran Chanito Stable for $130,000 after bringing $85,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September.

Won:

Her first Grade 1 stakes as a trainer, Maryland-based Brittany Russell when Doppelganger captured the Carter at Aqueduct April 8. Previously trained by Bob Baffert in California, Doppelganger moved to Russell's Laurel Park barn late last year and won two Laurel allowance races to start

JANET GARAGUSO / COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Doppelganger winning the Carter Handicap April 8, trainer Brittany Russell's first Grade 1.

2023. Sent off at 17-1 in the Carter, the 4-year-old reeled in favorite Repo Rocks (a Virginia-bred based at Parx Racing with trainer Jamie Ness) to win by 1¼ lengths. It was also the first Grade 1 win for jockey Jevian Toledo. Doppelganger won his debut for Baffert in December 2021, then lost six consecutive races (three with trainer Tim Yakteen) before relocating to the East Coast.

Decreased:

To 1.25, its lowest level since the study began in 2009, The Jockey Club Equine Industry Database's fatality rate per 1,000 starts. The decrease is the fourth consecutive and represents a 37.5 percent reduction (from 2.00) from when the database launched in 2009. Based on 2022 data, 99.88 percent of flat racing starts at racetracks participating in the EID were completed without a fatality. By track surface, the rates were 1.44 per 1,000 starts on dirt, .99 on turf and .41 on synthetic. "We can say with confidence that the risk of

PREAKNESS/148
SAT/MAY 20

STAKES CLOSING TUES/MAY 9

$1,500,000 GUARANTEED **THE PREAKNESS STAKES - GI** *Three Year Olds // 1 and 3/16 Miles*	$200,000 GUARANTEED **THE DINNER PARTY STAKES - GIII** *Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/8 Miles // Turf*
$200,000 GUARANTEED **THE CHICK LANG STAKES - GIII** *Three Year Olds // 6 Furlongs*	$100,000 GUARANTEED **UAE President Cup (Arabian) - GI** *Four Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/16 Miles*
$100,000 GUARANTEED **THE GALLORETTE STAKES - GIII** *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // 1 and 1/16 Miles // Turf*	$100,000 GUARANTEED **THE MARYLAND SPRINT STAKES - GIII** *Three Year Olds and Upward // 6 Furlongs*
$100,000 GUARANTEED **THE JAMES W. MURPHY STAKES - LISTED** *Three Year Olds // 1 Mile // Turf*	$100,000 GUARANTEED **THE JIM MCKAY TURF SPRINT - LISTED** *Three Year Olds and Upward // 5 Furlongs // Turf*
$100,000 GUARANTEED **THE SKIPAT STAKES - LISTED** *Fillies and Mares - Three Year Olds and Upward // 6 Furlongs*	$100,000 GUARANTEED **THE SIR BARTON STAKES - (NWSS)** *Three Year Olds // 1 and 1/16 Miles*

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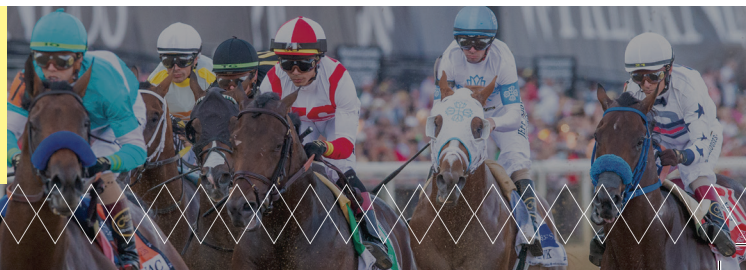

fatal injury is heading in a sustained downward direction both overall and in many specific areas," said Tim Parkin, a professor at the University of Bristol who has consulted with the database since its creation. "The six-month period from July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, was the safest six-month period on record since the inception of the EID in 2009. This evidence of positive progress is very encouraging and should be applauded by everyone in North American racing." Since March 2012, racetracks have been able to voluntarily publish their statistics from the EID on The Jockey Club website. The racetracks that publish statistics reported racing fatalities per 1,000 starts of 0.99 as compared to 1.42 for those that do not publish. The EID statistics are based on injuries that resulted in fatalities within 72 hours from the date of the race. The statistics are for official Thoroughbred races only and exclude steeplechase races. Summary statistics for the EID are subject to change due to a number of considerations, including reporting timeliness. All data entered into the EID goes through a multilevel quality control process to ensure the data is completely and accurately reported. Throughout the course of 2022, approximately 99 percent of all Thoroughbred starts were included in the EID. Several regional tracks are among those that published data in 2022. At Delaware Park, the overall rate was 1.68 per 1,000 starts. At Laurel Park, the number was 1.03 for the second consecutive year. Monmouth Park's number was 2.05. Pimlico's was .66. The Equine Injury Database, conceived at the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation's first Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit, was launched by The Jockey Club in July 2008 and seeks to identify the frequencies, types, and outcomes of racing injuries using a standardized format that generates valid statistics, identifies markers for horses at increased risk of injury, and serves as a data source for research directed at improving safety and preventing injuries.

Selected:

As the winning project in the second annual Preakness Art of Racing competition, Justin Johnson's illustration "The Face of Victory." Announced at a ceremony at the Maryland Institute College of Art April 11, the result chose one winning work from 10 finalists selected from 207 total entries from 19 states. The interested represented an increase of more than 40 percent over the inaugural contest in 2022. As the winner, Johnson receives a $4,000 stipend and two tickets to Preakness 148 at Pimlico Race Course May 20. In addition, his work will be reproduced on a curated collection of Preakness 148 merchandise available for purchase online and onsite during Preakness weekend. Proceeds from the sale of merchandise will be used to support the activities of the Park Heights Renaissance as it pursues affordable housing for families and provides employment opportunities

The Face of Victory: A piece showcasing the true winner of the race, the horse itself. Done in the colors of the Maryland flag, with the white streak of a Thoroughbred's face being the Preakness trophy and garnished with the Black-Eyed Susan garland.

for the people of Park Heights. The Art of Racing was launched by 1/ST Racing and the Maryland Jockey Club in partnership with MICA. Based in Towson, Md., Johnson was raised in Sykesville and attended South Carroll High. He graduated from Messiah College with a theater degree and has worked in the Baltimore theater community. His art evolved from pencil sketches to caricatures and now digital art on an iPad. He created "The Face of Victory" with Procreate and Affinity Designer software and has begun to take on a more minimalistic approach with influences from art deco and to modern-day minimalism to apply to caricature work as well as graphic design and illustration.

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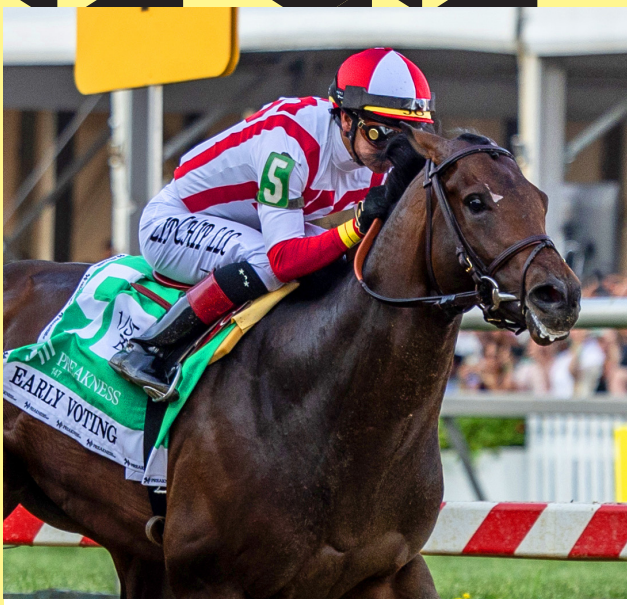

MAY 20 2023

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Built:

A nest in a prime tailgate parking spot at the Carolina Cup steeplechase meet, a federally protected killdeer bird. The morning of the race meet, Saturday, April 1, Camden, S.C., police officers discovered the bird (and four eggs) in Space 110 in the infield and initially called a bird rescue expert. Killdeer are not endangered, but they are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 so it's illegal to move their nests or relocate birds. Race organizers and police officers did the only thing they could do – marked off the nesting spot with caution tape and found another spot for the tailgaters. The racing fans were happy to oblige and, as of early April, the bird was still on her nest. There was no report on what she thought of the racing.

Created:

A traveling and on-site exhibition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Secretariat's 1973 Triple Crown sweep, the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. The traveling exhibition is being underwritten by Churchill Downs, the Maryland Jockey Club, the New York Racing Association, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, the Virginia Equine Alliance and Dean Dorton. Stops include Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky., for Kentucky Derby week May 3-6; Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore for Preakness festivities May 18-20; and Belmont Park for the Belmont Stakes in Elmont, N.Y., June 8-11; and a visit to Virginia's Colonial Downs Sept. 7-9. "A Tremendous Machine: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Secretariat's Triple Crown" will feature Secretariat's 1973 Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, Belmont Stakes, and Triple Crown trophies. A video will take fans through Secretariat's journey in which he set records in each race and tell the stories of the people who guided the horse through his career. Following its stops at the Triple Crown hosts, a more comprehensive exhibition will open July 13 at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. and remain through Oct. 29. Bred in Virginia by Christopher Chenery's Meadow Stud and campaigned by Chenery's daughter, Penny, Secretariat won Eclipse Awards for Horse of the Year and champion 2-year-old male in 1972. The following year, he became the first Triple Crown winner since Citation in 1948, setting records in the Derby, Preakness, and Belmont, all of which still stand, and winning Eclipse Awards as Horse of the Year, champion 3-year-old male and champion turf horse. Secretariat was retired at the end of his 1973 season with a record of 16-3-1 from 21 starts and earnings of $1,316,808. Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1974, Secretariat stood at Claiborne Farm in Paris, Ky., where he sired 57 stakes winners, including Hall of Famer Lady's Secret.

Maryland Horse Library & Education Center to hold book sale Preakness Week

The Maryland Horse Library and Education Center will hold its first duplicate book sale during Preakness week Wednesday, May 17 and Thursday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Reisterstown, Md.

A large collection of classics, many out-of-print, as well as newer offerings will be available for purchase.

In addition, local authors **John Eisenberg, Jack Gilden, Josh Pons** and **Alvin Stone** will be on hand at select times to sign their books, with new copies available for sale.

On Thursday, May 18 at 4 p.m. photographer **Patricia McQueen** will do an author talk about her recently published "Secretariat's Legacy," a collection of photographs and stories about Secretariat and his descendants. McQueen will do a book signing after her talk.

For complete schedule, see MarylandHorse.com/library

Delaware Park 2023 STAKES SCHEDULE

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RACE	DISTANCE	TO BE RUN	PURSE (Guaranteed)	CLOSES	NOM-FEES
The Obeah Stakes - Listed Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	**1 mile & 1/16**	**May 27**	**$150,000**	**May 13**	**$50**
THE DELAWARE OAKS - Grade III For Fillies 3 Year Olds	**1 mile & 1/16**	**July 1**	**$300,000**	**June 17**	**$100**
The Alapocas Run Stakes - Grade BT 3 Year Olds & Upward	**6 furlongs**	**July 1**	**$100,000**	**June 17**	**FREE**
The Robert G. Dick Memorial - Grade III Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	**1 mile & 3/8 (Turf)**	**July 1**	**$250,000**	**June 17**	**$100**
THE DELAWARE HANDICAP - Grade II Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	**1 mile & 3/16**	**July 8**	**$500,000**	**June 24**	**$250**
The Battery Park Stakes - Grade BT For 3 Year Olds & Upward	**1 mile & 1/16**	**July 8**	**$150,000**	**June 24**	**$50**
The Dashing Beauty Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies and Mares–3 Year Olds & Upward	**6 furlongs**	**July 8**	**$100,000**	**June 24**	**FREE**
The Kent Stakes - Listed For 3 Year Olds	**1 mile & 3/8 (Turf)**	**July 15**	**$150,000**	**July 1**	**$50**
The Christiana Stakes - Grade BT For Fillies 3 Year Olds	**1 mile & 1/8 (Turf)**	**July 15**	**$150,000**	**July 1**	**$50**

Horsemen please remember to check all condition books for Overnight Stakes that are not listed here for the 2023 Racing Season.

For more info call 302.636.1076 or email: Jed Doro (jerome.doro@delawarepark.com) | Lori Smock (lori.smock@delawarepark.com) | Phil Wasiluk (philip.wasiluk@delawarepark.com)

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West Virginia horsewoman steps in during time of need at Avonwood

Dennis Bybee led a diverse and interesting life, and horses were long part of it. A teacher of high school mathematics and science, he graduated from Fresno State College in Fresno, Calif., in 1965, where he also learned the basics of equine science in the college's Quarter Horse program, gaining practical experience breaking and training young horses to the halter and on the ground with long lines. He bred and showed American Saddlebreds, and later rode dresssage. He then turned his attention to Thoroughbreds.

Bybee outlined his life in an online biography which explained his coming to Virginia in the 1980s to work with the Defense Department's elementary and secondary schools for dependents of military and civilian personnel stationed overseas. He loved Virginia history, and created a detailed, visual series he maintained online, described as a "non-profit activity devoted to the collection, organization, presentation and dissemination of information about Virginia State History."

Being in the area led Bybee to eventually lease Avonwood Farm in Charles Town, W.Va., where he expanded a breeding operation that included standing stallions at Bybee Road Farm on Avonwood, including Officer Rocket (GB) and Ghostly Numbers, and in recent years Despite the Odds and Aaron's Way, to name a few, and growing a band of broodmares. One of the best he bred was stakes winner Pass the Virtue. Bybee, who was in his 80s and had been battling health issues more than a year, passed away in March.

Melissa Mellott leased a portion of Avonwood Farm for her business of foaling mares, and was there to help Bybee with his horses and personal affairs during his final years. By last fall, she began the process of rehoming his nearly 40 mares.

Mellott found homes for the mares, a number through rescues, and kept four on the farm, including two best friends. As for the stallions, veterans Despite the Odds and Aaron's Way remain at Avonwood, and Mellott welcomed a new stallion, Pioneer Spirit.

A millionaire son of Malibu Moon, Pioneer Spirit made his last start in March. The graded stakes-placed winner of 14 of 58 races, including back-to-back Michael G. Schaefer Memorial Stakes at Horseshoe Indianapolis, Fair Grounds' Tenacious Stakes and Oaklawn's Fifth Season Stakes. He recorded his last victory at Aqueduct Oct. 21, 2022. Out of the Machiavellian mare Hafifah, the 10-year-old sold was a $380,000 Keeneland sales yearling and is a half-brother to graded winner Devious Intent and stakes-placed Virgil Caine and Devious d'Oro. Second dam Erandel, a winning daughter of Danzig, also produced graded winner Runspastum.

Mellott, who has about 15 of her own mares, leases the entire farm and will oversee the foaling of nearly 70 mares this year for various clients.

She will long remember Bybee and his influence.

"He was a character," said Mellott. "It was hard to get to know him but he was a really nice person."

– Cindy Deubler

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

March 11 – April 8

Maryland-bred

MAVILUS, b.m., 2018, Orientate—Mavia, by Rock Slide. B-Kevin P. Morgan; O-Michael Scheffres; T-Carlos A. Mancilla. $75,000 Conniver S, Laurel, March 18.

Pennsylvania-bred

ANGEL OF EMPIRE, b.c., 2020, Classic Empire—Armony's Angel, by To Honor and Serve. B-Forgotten Land Investment & Black Diamond Equine Corp.; O-Albaugh Family Stables; T-Brad Cox. $1,250,000 Arkansas Derby-G1, Oaklawn, April 1.

BREEZY GUST, b.g., 2017, Great Notion—Takenbythebreeze, by Shore Breeze. B-Michael Anspach; O-Trending Stable; T-Josue Arce. $75,000 Not For Love S, Laurel, March 18.

CARAVEL, gr./ro.m., 2017, Mizzen Mast—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats. B-Elizabeth Merryman; O-Qatar Racing, Marc Detampel & Madaket Stables; T-Brad H. Cox. $300,000 Shakertown S-G2, Keeneland, April 8.

NIMITZ CLASS, dk.b./br.c., 2019, Munnings—Five Diamonds, by Flatter. B-Arrowwood Farm; O-Tom Coulter; T-Bruce Kravets. $100,000 Harrison E. Johnson Memorial S, Laurel, March 18.

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A Day in the Life

The Preakness Stakes of 1973 will forever be known for Secretariat's triumph on the way to a historic Triple Crown sweep (see page 28), but the May 19 card at Pimlico Race Course featured plenty of connections to Mid-Atlantic racing.

Trainer C.L. "Snake" Frock won the opener, a $3,000 claimer, with Stand n Collect. Virginia's Audley Farm, breeder of the first race winner, won the second, a $5,000 claimer, with Silk Shirt. Leon "Blue" Blusiewicz won the third, a $9,000 claimer, with Don't Knock Me. Future Maryland stallion Northern Jove upset Spanish Riddle (ridden and trained by Secretariat's team of Ron Turcotte and Lucien Laurin) in the sixth, a $15,000 handicap. Gregg McCarron rode the winner for trainer Odie Clelland. Regional legend Port Conway Lane won the seventh, a $14,000 allowance, for trainer King Leatherbury. It was one of the gray gelding's 52 lifetime wins from 242 starts. Vince Bracciale Jr. won the fourth aboard Lucky Lord.

One race after the Preakness, Merryman family homebred Buffalo Run won a $7,000 starter handicap for trainer Katy Voss.

At Belmont Park that day, future Secretariat upsetter Onion finished second to stablemate King's Bishop in the Carter Handicap.

DOUBLE J

Ten years after his 1973 Preakness Day allowance win, Port Conway Lane won his 52nd race. When his retirement was announced a few months later, he led the post parade for the Oldtimers Purse on Old Timers Day at Laurel Park.

THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority: Frank Vespe reports on the bill passed late in the legislative session to create a racetrack operating authority that advocates hope is the framework for Maryland racing's future.

Dulcimer Dame playing winning tune: The nation's winningest horse this year, Dulcimer Dame, resides at Charles Town Races, where she racked up seven straight wins in the first three months of the year for trainer Anthony Farrior. Ted Black gets the story.

Off the Pace – Lane Luzzi hoping "you can go home again": Jockey Lane Luzzi, who grew up on the East Coast, will try to disprove the idea that you can't go home again when he shifts his tack from Texas to Monmouth, reports Mike Valiante.

The Fox Comes Around: An exclusive excerpt from *The Foxes of Belair*, a new book by The Racing Biz regular contributor Jennifer Kelly, tells the tale of Gallant Fox's Preakness Stakes triumph.

Backtracks – Missy's Mirage got the job done: New Jersey-bred Missy's Mirage became one of trainer Allen Jerkens' favorites, a gray filly who "got the job done." Kelly remembers the hard-trying filly who loved to work and win.

Angel of Empire tops Midlantic-Bred poll: In the first Top Midlantic-bred Poll of 2023, Pennsylvania-bred Angel of Empire was as dominant a winner as he was in the Arkansas Derby-G1.

2023 Maryland Steeplechase Governor's Cup Series

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2022 Maryland Steeplechase Timber Horse of the the Year: Vintage Vinnie (Ire). Photo by Robert Keller

Sunday, March 19 **Foxhall Farm Cup Team Chase** Butler
Sunday, April 2 **Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point** Hunt Valley
Saturday, April 8 **Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point** Monkton
Saturday, April 15 **My Lady's Manor** Monkton
Sunday, April 16 **Mt. Harmon Wicomico Hunt Point-to-Point** Earlville
Saturday, April 22 **Grand National Steeplechase** Butler
Saturday, April 29 **Maryland Hunt Cup** Glyndon
Sunday, May 21 **Potomac Hunt Races** Poolesville

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Fasig-Tipton aims for more at May 2-year-old sale

By Tom Law

Faced with the enviable dilemma of following back-to-back years of record results, eight consecutive auctions with at least one seven-figure sale and relieving a facility stretched to its maximum, Fasig-Tipton went with what has worked across its various auctions through the years.

"You try to follow it up by recruiting more higher-quality horses. And the quality is the best it's ever been," Fasig-Tipton President and Chief Executive Officer Boyd Browning Jr. said in advance of the 2023 Midlantic 2-year-old sale, set for its two-day run the Monday and Tuesday after Preakness Weekend May 22-23 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium.

The Midlantic May sale features a catalog of 575, down from 636 last year and 587 in 2021. Browning said last year's sale, which saw a Bernardini colt later named Hejazi sell for a record $3.55 million, stretched Fasig-Tipton's "facility and resources to the absolute maximum."

To alleviate some of those stretched resources, Fasig-Tipton added a June sale of 2-year-olds in Timonium to the 2023 auction calendar. Fasig-Tipton also shelved its boutique Gulfstream sale of 2-year-olds for 2023, and that addition and subtraction allowed the auction house to focus more quality on the May sale.

"When we were contemplating how to move forward, knowing we weren't going to have a Gulfstream sale this year and it's not going to be the focus of our quality, we made a corporate decision to do two things," Browning said. "And they weren't completely isolated. We felt like last year we needed to add a June sale after we excluded a large number of horses and I also think there's a need for a

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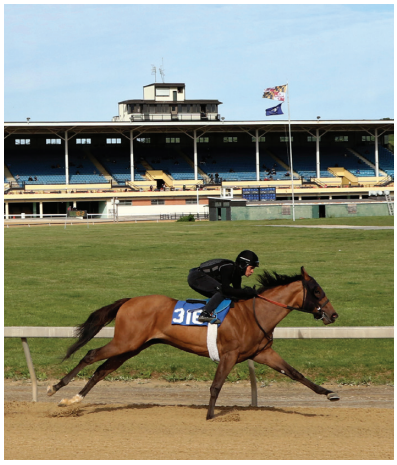
later 2-year-old sale on the East Coast as an alternative. The beautiful thing about Timonium is its accessibility and location to so many major racetracks. That brings the horses to the buyers rather than have the buyers have to travel to Florida at that time of year when the climate is not very ideal and the conditions are not that great.

"When we said we were going to try and improve the quality of this sale, we had it in our minds we had to reduce the numbers a little bit to be able to provide a little better stabling, a little less crowding and we had an alternative in 2023 that we didn't have before. So, it was a conscious decision. I do feel like the overall quality of the catalog is stronger this year than it was last year."

Last year's sale produced not only Hejazi, who later finished third in the 2022 American Pharoah Stakes-G1 at Santa Anita Park and second in this year's Lafayette Stakes April 7 at Keeneland Race Course, but undefeated Grade 1 winner and multiple graded stakes winner Faiza and fellow leading 3-year-old fillies Mimi Kakushi, Classy Edition and Maple Leaf Mel.

The 2022 sale not only marked the eighth consecutive year with a seven-figure sale topper, but also a second straight year of records for gross receipts and average price. Last year's sale saw 391 juveniles sell for $37,297,700 and an average price of $95,391, breaking marks set in 2021.

Looking at a broader picture, in 10 years the sale's gross has more than doubled – from the $16,675,000 (on



FASIG-TIPTON

249 horses) in 2013. In those same 10 years, the gross decreased from year to year just twice, by $368,500 in 2018; and by a more substantial $5.8 million in 2020 when the sale was delayed and the coronavirus pandemic tossed uncertainty into the auction ring. The record-breaking 2021 and 2022 sales immediately followed the downturn.

Trainer Jeremiah Englehart and the team representing Hall of Fame football coach Bill Parcells found Maple Leaf Mel at the 2022 sale, purchasing the New York-bred daughter of Cross Traffic for $150,000. Unbeaten in three starts before an expected outing in the Miss Preakness Stakes-G3 May 19 at Pimlico Race Course, Maple Leaf Mel breezed in :10.2 at Timonium and caught the eye of Englehart and Robbie Medina, one of Parcells' closest advisors, on the track and at the barn of consignor Robert Brewer.

With Fasig-Tipton's Gulfstream Sale on the shelf and the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's breeze shows conducted over a synthetic surface, the Midlantic sale benefits from being the lone major sales venue with an under-tack show on dirt.

"The one obvious thing that stands out between that sale and others is it's a dirt track that they breeze over," Englehart said. "You get to know how they'll travel over the dirt there.

"There are so many different ways to go into a sale, whether you're using the video footage, slow motion stride analysis or other tools out there. But it all comes down to the horse. At least with her, she stood out to me when she came out of the stall. She looked good and handled going over her. She gave a good impression. You feel like you're standing next to her in the winner's circle. You imagine that from doing that in the past. She loves to run, so that was easy for me as it got closer for me when she was getting ready to run. Sometimes you have a beautiful physical, they have all the pedigree in the world but like coach says, 'When they turn the lights on, some don't like to play.' "

Catalog Surfing

The 2023 May catalog features something a wide cross-section of horses including a large group of regional-breds plus the first crop from stallions Audible, Catholic Boy, Vino Rosso, Enticed, Flameaway, World of Trouble, Solomini, Omaha Beach, Mitole, Maximus Mischief, Qurbann, Yoshida (Jpn), Preservationist, Force the Pass, Catalina Cruiser, Frank Conversation and Leofric.

Siblings to Kentucky Derby-G1 hopeful Angel of Empire, champions Accelerate, Jaywalk and Hansen, Grade 3 winners Daring Duchess and Coinage, Maryland-bred stars Jaxon Traveler and Whereshetoldmetogo and others are part of the catalog. See fasigtipton.com for more. ■

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— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Leather Gloves

MIDDLEBURG PHOTO

Natalie Wales was almost giddy, and the smile on her face came through in her voice.

"He's a nice guy. He's super athletic, and he's gorgeous. He's Tom Brady."

Actually, he's Leather Gloves, the 15-year-old gelding Wales has owned and foxhunted for seven years. Speak with Wales for even a few minutes, and it's obvious the sleek, seal-brown son of Not For Love is her equine ideal.

"He's just the most beautiful horse."

Wales is plenty qualified to dole out such lofty praise. The native of England's Stratford-upon-Avon grew up foxhunting and eventing. Twenty-two years ago, England was in the processing of banning hunting, so Wales thought it a good time to check out how Americans do it. Planning to give it a year, she settled in the sport's mecca – Middleburg, Va. – and never left.

Early on, she acquired a horse from veteran steeplechase trainer Dot Smithwick that she wanted to run over timber.

"I thought perhaps I ought to gallop some racehorses because I had not done that," she said. "So I called Richard Valentine, and he said, 'Sure, come on over.' "

Wales got the experience she needed and more. She met her husband, Valentine's assistant Laird George, there and the groundwork was laid on the path leading Wales to Leather Gloves.

Fast forward to 2013. Magalen Bryant, long one of steeplechasing's leading owners, purchased a 5-year-old from Fasig-Tipton's summer horses of racing age sale for $20,000. Bred in Maryland by Bill Backer, Leather Gloves was out of Mittens, one of the advertising titan's favorite mares. Like his dam, Leather Gloves was trained by Hamilton Smith, with whom Backer won the Virginia Oaks in 2004 (Art Fan) and 2009 (Blind Date).

Making his debut as a 3-year-old in 2011, Leather Gloves broke his maiden at Colonial Downs in his fifth start. Smith and Backer ran him for $25,000 to $20,000 claiming tags for a time, but he didn't hit the board again until a second at Laurel Park for $6,500 in December 2012. He rebounded there three weeks later and clinched his second win for the connections.

Given a break until the following May, Leather Gloves made three starts in 2013, finishing second, third and fourth. That July, he went through the sales ring and went steeplechasing for Bryant and Valentine.

His first start over fences came at Charlotte in April 2014; he finished third. What came next was arguably the zenith of the horse's racing career. Back as a maiden a month later at Fair Hill, Leather Gloves hammered out the win over future Grade 1 hurdle winners All the Way Jose, Choral Society and Balance the Budget. Pulled up in a Saratoga allowance two months later, Leather Gloves missed nearly a year before finishing sixth in his final start – a Monmouth Park allowance in June 2015. After 19 starts, he retired to Virginia hunt country with a record of 3-3-3 and $68,720.

Wales was riding out at Bryant's Locust Hill Farm when the horse arrived. Shortly thereafter, farm manager Karen Russell asked if Wales might have a use for any of the recent retirees.

"They would rehome horses fairly frequently because Mrs. Bryant had so many of them," Wales said. "There were always horses coming home to Locust Hill. From Jonathan Sheppard's . . . Mrs. Bryant had horses with everybody. Eventually these horses were looking for new jobs and new homes. They'd sort of start stacking up and someone would say, 'Hey, are you interested?' Karen had offered me a cute little bay horse. I told her I really liked that one, but I had my heart set on Leather Gloves. I just always loved the look of him."

For the past 15 years, Wales has operated a boarding and training business at Old Denton, just across Zulla Road from Locust Hill in The Plains, Va.

"My clients are a mixed group of some lower-level event people, some foxhunters. I have 14 horses in my barn right now, and entirely too many of them are my own," she said. "But the hunting and eventing is my thing."

> "Don't tell the others, but yeah – he kind of is my favorite horse to hunt . . . He's the star quarterback, the one you save for the tough days and bigger country."
>
> *– Natalie Wales, about Leather Gloves*

Wales has also been a staff member at Orange County Hounds for nearly 13 years. She whipped in for 10 years until a head injury sidelined her with a forced hiatus when she had to hunt from back in the field, as whipping in was considered too risky. She's back on the job now, with Leather Gloves leading her squad of hunters.

"Don't tell the others, but yeah – he kind of is my favorite horse to hunt. Like I said, he's Tom Brady. He's the star quarterback, the one you save for the tough days and bigger country. You don't have to think, you just point, shoot and go and he does his job. And from the first time I jumped him I thought, 'Wow, I'm not sure I've ever sat on a horse that jumps this well.' It took awhile to get him across the creek in the beginning . . . but other than that, he's been nothing but a star."

She's not wrong. Leather Gloves is a showstopper over a fence with his perfect bascule and knees tucked tight to his chin. Together, she and the horse represent the sport with elegance.

"He's just genuinely a really good boy," Wales said. "He doesn't do anything wrong; he's like a big old Labrador. So sweet and so kind. This time of year, when he's as fit as he is for hunting, turning him out in the morning can be a little bit of an adventure sometimes. But he's such a gentleman in everything that he does."

So here's the big question – does anyone else get the privilege of hunting Leather Gloves? Surely husband Laird would have the occasional honor, no?

Wales paused a moment before answering with a laugh.

"No one hunts him but me. Every once in awhile, Laird will hunt one of mine, but not him. I've never let anyone else hunt Leather Gloves. He's pretty special." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

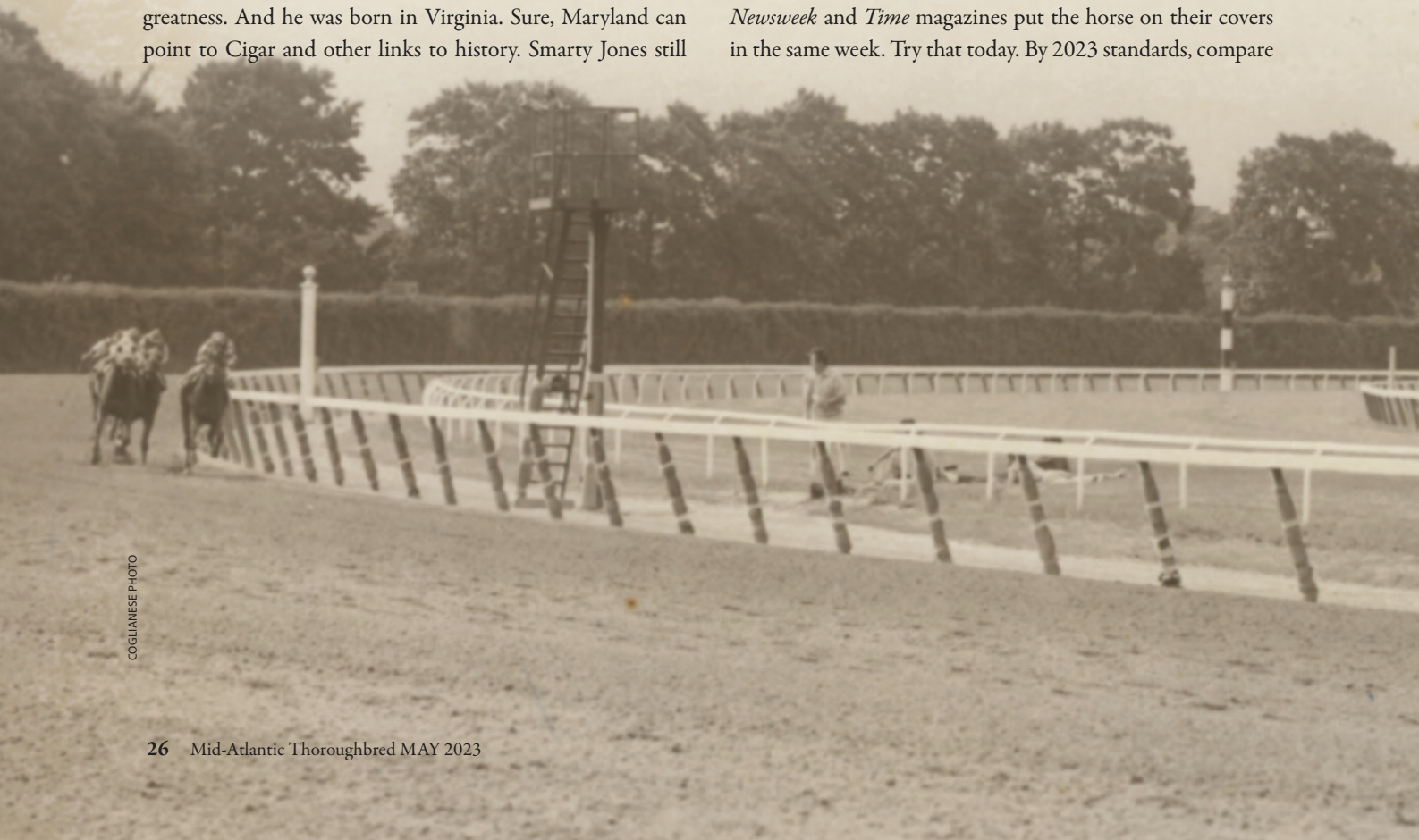
Secretariat's power still on display

Fifty years ago, before the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course, Secretariat wasn't changing lives. He was another Kentucky Derby winner, giving the Preakness a go. He could have lost the race, like so many before him and after. Instead, he won with a first-turn move people still have difficulty explaining and added the ultimate exclamation point three weeks later in the Belmont Stakes (I actually say "by 31 lengths" to describe a lopsided victory by a horse, person or team).

Secretariat's impact remains, all these years later.

In Virginia, his legacy supports a Thoroughbred industry. He's not the only reason, but imagine making the case that the state's racing/breeding/training infrastructure needs support by showcasing the memory of Secretariat to legislators, sponsors and donors. This single horse will forever be a yardstick – arguably THE yardstick – for Thoroughbred greatness. And he was born in Virginia. Sure, Maryland can point to Cigar and other links to history. Smarty Jones still pulls Pennsylvania along. New York has Funny Cide. But there was only one Secretariat, and everyone has heard of him. He matters in all eras, boardrooms, promotions and presentations. Colonial Downs named its turf course for Secretariat. His birthplace, the Chenery family's Meadow in Doswell, is now the Meadow Event Park – home to the state fair and other events. The small barn where he was born is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. In April, Ashland, Va., hosted the temporary placement of a larger-than-life Secretariat statue – a duplicate of one already gracing a traffic circle in Kentucky. A fundraising campaign is narrowing the gap to make the statue a permanent fixture in the Virginia town.

In 1973, Secretariat took the rare leap beyond racing – at a time when that might not have seemed possible – when he ended a 25-year Triple Crown drought. *Sports Illustrated*, *Newsweek* and *Time* magazines put the horse on their covers in the same week. Try that today. By 2023 standards, compare



COGLIANESE PHOTO

it to getting a million retweets on Twitter, 75 million likes on Instagram and 100 million followers on TikTok – and being the subject of the Google Doodle – at the same time. Something like that anyway. He wound up on postage stamps (33 cents). There were books, a record album, a bronze in the paddock at Belmont Park. Disney made a movie. And on and on.

In interviews for the Secretariat's Preakness feature on Page 32, people went out of their way to credit the horse's impact on their careers in racing. All-time greats in sports always spur debate, and who's to say who was better. But greats are always known, always spoken about.

"How do you know?" asked Coley Blind about Secretariat's place in history among the greats who came before him. "You compare them with what you have. Is Babe Ruth better than Aaron Judge? Who knows? Everything is different."

Blind saw Seattle Slew, Affirmed and Alydar, American Pharoah, Justify. He heard about Seabiscuit, War Admiral, Citation and all the rest from his father Eddie. Nobody topped Secretariat.

Blind continued the thought: "Compare horses here now to him. He was different-sized, different everything. He was just massive. It wasn't like he was bulky. He was just an absolute athlete. He never looked like he had to fight to do anything."

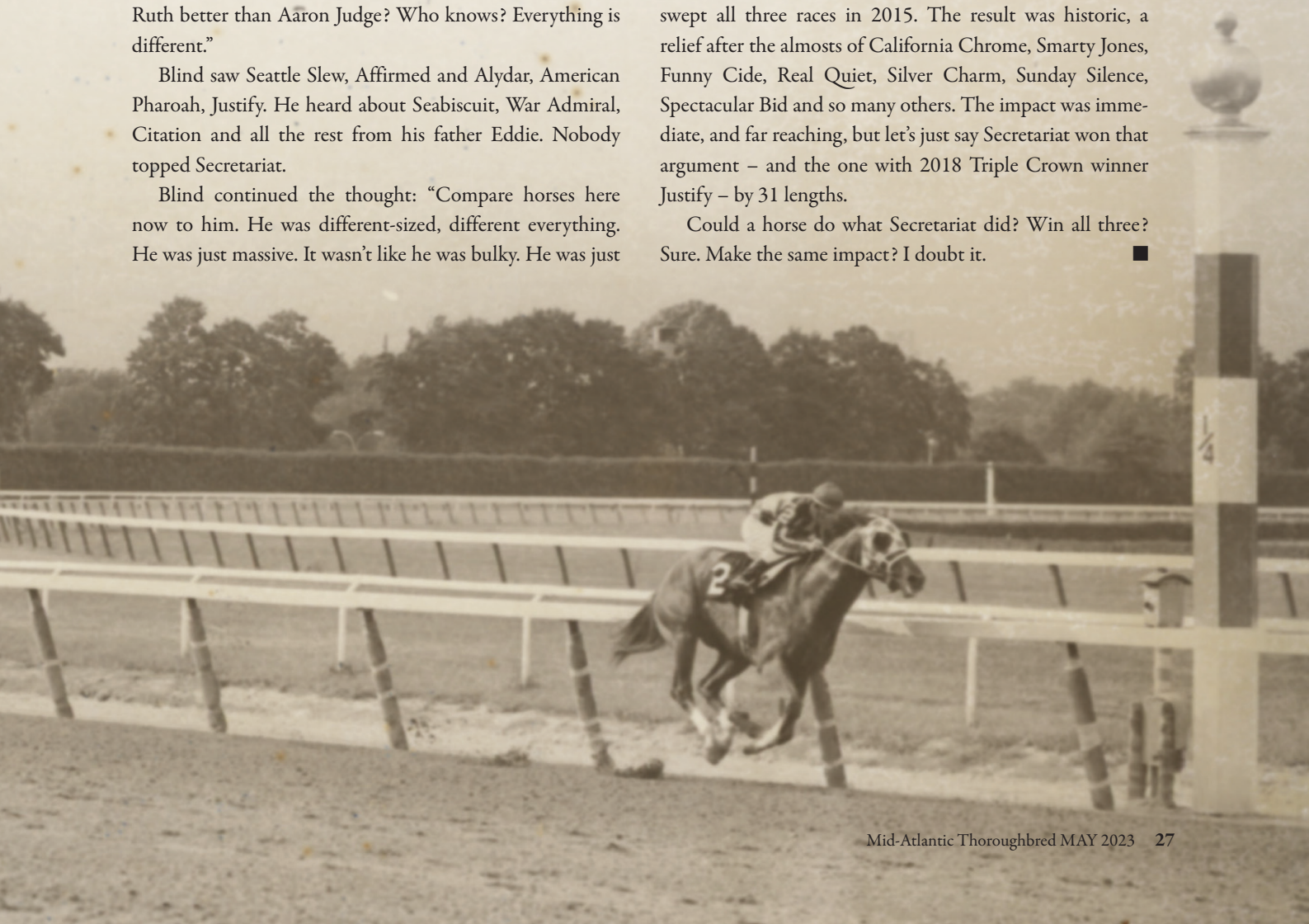
Photographer Cappy Jackson talked about Secretariat's brain as much as his brawn. Sheer talent took him so far. The rest came from somewhere else. She could feel it.

"The horse was awe-inspiring," she said, putting it simply.

Maryland racing seems to be rapidly approaching another crossroads (see the *Maryland Horse* section) with the creation of a new state authority to navigate the future through a reimagined model. A horse, even a horse like Secretariat, would seem to have little chance of helping that effort find direction. But, man, it sure wouldn't hurt.

Triple Crown winners Seattle Slew and Affirmed followed Secretariat in the 1970s, then racing weathered another drought – this one 37 years until American Pharoah swept all three races in 2015. The result was historic, a relief after the almosts of California Chrome, Smarty Jones, Funny Cide, Real Quiet, Silver Charm, Sunday Silence, Spectacular Bid and so many others. The impact was immediate, and far reaching, but let's just say Secretariat won that argument – and the one with 2018 Triple Crown winner Justify – by 31 lengths.

Could a horse do what Secretariat did? Win all three? Sure. Make the same impact? I doubt it. ■



A Moving Preakness

SECRETARIAT'S 50-YEAR-OLD WIN WILL ALWAYS CARRY WEIGHT

Story by Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs by Cappy Jackson*

In front of the Pimlico Race Course starting gate parked across the track, seven guys in caution-tape yellow windbreakers huddle around an older man in a yellow-and-black plaid sports jacket. Just beyond them, on the other side of the gate, six horses finish warming up. Down the stretch, broadcaster Jack Whitaker takes his cue from co-host Frank Wright and says, "The weather is perfect and we're just waiting for a fine horse race."

And a page in one of Thoroughbred racing's finest chapters.

SKIP BALL COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Pimlico starter Eddie Blind, dressed in yellow and black plaid, eyes the horses before the 1973 Preakness Stakes.

On old video, the Preakness Stakes of 50 years ago appears charming, easy, relaxed and anticipatory. No infield concert's thumping bass. No stealth bomber flyover. No VIP club serving wagyu sliders. No scramble for access by people with credentials and without. Knowing what is about to happen, the scene feels quiet and simple. Whitaker, the jockeys on those horses, the gate crew and starter Eddie Blind, the 61,657 in attendance have no way of knowing Secretariat will soon flash his long stride and even longer ability to take the lead around the first turn and gallop to an easy victory. Nobody does. They're all just there. Waiting.

Secretariat came to Baltimore with the accompanying hoopla of any Kentucky Derby winner. And then some. Horse of the Year as a 2-year-old in 1972, the Virginia-bred won Aqueduct's Bay Shore and Gotham to start his 3-year-old season. A third in the Wood Memorial threatened to dull some of the luster, but Secretariat erased that by running the fastest Derby in history – 1¼ miles in 1:59⅖ – at Churchill Downs May 5. His brilliance, and his presence, spurred thoughts of finally putting a 25-year Triple Crown drought to rest.

"The way the horse ran in the Derby everybody was just like, 'Wow, this horse is something,' and when you looked at him you thought, 'Damn, look at this animal,' " said Coley Blind, Eddie's son and a patrol judge for the 1973 Preakness. "He was built, unbelievably built."

A Canadian like Secretariat's trainer Lucien Laurin and jockey Ron Turcotte, Eddie Blind saw Seabiscuit and War Admiral square off at Pimlico, started Citation's Preakness in 1948 and knew a special horse when he saw one.

"Dad was in his glory," said Coley, who retired as the Maryland Jockey Club stakes coordinator in 2020. "He would talk about Seabiscuit and all those other horses, but he was really impressed with Secretariat."

Eddie Blind would tell his son, and anybody else at Pimlico in the days before the Preakness, to look at Secretariat's hind quarters.

Secretariat made his presence known at Pimlico during Preakness Week, and caught the attention of *Maryland Horse* photographer Cappy Jackson.

Trainer Lucien Laurin escorts the Derby winner before a gallop. Jackson's mother Sheila (left) and Secretariat's owner Penny Chenery watch and chat. Rider Charlie Davis has his hands full. Laurin gives the champion a pat from aboard the stable pony.

"That's where he gets the power that allows him to run like that," Eddie Blind explained. "He's different."

Cappy Jackson, an 18-year-old photographer working for the *Maryland Horse* magazine, didn't have Eddie Blind's experience but she shared his opinion while hustling between the barn and the track all week.

"Nothing prepared me for what I saw in this horse, and I grew up riding horses," she said. "One of my jobs was to go down in the morning and get some pictures of him galloping or whatever. I was so amazed. I'd been around racehorses that couldn't keep all four feet on the ground at the same time and he was just so cool about it. For me, watching as a kid, I just remember him being great to handle on the ground. No matter what, he was like, 'I got this.' I remember the self-confidence."

"I still have it. It's tattered and moth-eaten, but it's still something I remember my dad with. He wore the hell out of that."

– Frank Blind, about his father Eddie's special Preakness plaid sports jacket

Horses typically visit the starting gate in the days before a race, especially a race such as the Preakness, and Secretariat was no different.

"Lucien Laurin was a really, really good trainer," said Frank Blind, Coley's brother and a member of the gate crew. "He believed in all aspects of the racing situation for every horse. He brought the horse over and we got a little bit more comfortable with him. How many times are you going to see a horse of that standard having a morning at the gate?"

Frank Blind and his compatriots led Secretariat in, let him stand, tried not to make too much of a fuss. Again, confidence came to mind.

"They didn't call him Big Red for nothing," said Frank Blind. "He got his name and earned it all the way down the line. He was something to behold."

A day or two into her Pimlico assignment, Jackson talked her mother Sheila into coming to see Secretariat train. Master of the Green Spring Valley Hounds at the time, Sheila Jackson made sure she got there – and experienced more than a special horse. As Secretariat headed down the horse path toward the track, the Jacksons headed for a key vantage point when they were stopped by a question.

"Excuse me, where is a good place I can go to watch my horse gallop?"

It was Secretariat's owner Penny Chenery, on her first morning at Pimlico that year.

"You could have knocked me over with a feather," said Jackson. "She was so genteel and classy and nice about it. To me, she was an idol. We'd all seen her on TV at the Derby. She stopped and talked to us, we introduced ourselves and I have a picture of my mom with her watching him gallop."

Jackson went on to Middlebury College and a lengthy career in photography (equestrian, fashion, with the Baltimore Ravens and more), but will never forget her time with Secretariat. Three decades after that meeting, Chenery saw some of Jackson's work in a book about Secretariat's rival Sham and reached out about acquiring some photos. Jackson told her the story of that Pimlico conversation.

Chenery laughed and replied, "You were the young lady who worked for the *Maryland Horse* magazine?"

Yes, she was.

As it does for all Preakness starters, the race came for Secretariat. The hype wouldn't matter if he couldn't win and for all his brilliance he'd lost three times (including once by disqualification).

Sharpened by a 5-furlong breeze in :57⅘ – which might have melted the internet today – Secretariat was bet down to 3-10 against five rivals. The opponents included Derby runner-up Sham and third Our Native, plus longshot newcomers Ecole Etage, Deadly Dream and Torsion. Attendance soared beyond the record set the previous year, packing seats in the clubhouse and grandstand and (in a relatively new phenomenon) the Pimlico infield.

With groom Eddie Sweat holding a shank snapped to the D bit, and exercise rider Charlie Davis on the stable pony Billy Silver, Laurin saddled Secretariat on the turf course. The Derby winner looked calm. On the track, he and Turcotte and cantered off alone to warm-up. Up the stretch, the gate crew huddled.

"The Preakness was pressure every single year no matter what," said Frank Blind. "It was a huge deal. There was pressure. It was the Preakness. It was Secretariat. But you just did the job. All you wanted to do was handle the horse you had and make sure they got off all right."

That infield crowd, unencumbered by the security fences of today, spilled on to the turf course with even a few making it to the dirt track's inside rail at the starting gate by the 5:40 p.m. post time. Sham, handled by Eric Blind (cousin of Coley and Frank), loaded first at the rail. Deadly Dream, off a win at Penn National a week earlier, was next. Then came Secretariat, handled by Danny Fitchett. The favorite ignored two wayward fans waving their arms at the rail, paused at the doors, then walked in with a push from two locked arms. Our Native stepped forward, followed by Torsion and finally the Bud Delp-trained Ecole Etage led by Frank Blind. It took 34 seconds to load six horses.

"I remember people being right there when we loaded," said Frank Blind. "That was unusual, but the horses didn't seem to pay any attention to them."

Raceday through the lens of Cappy Jackson, hired at age 18 to assist Peter Winants with Preakness Day coverage.

On the Pimlico turf course, Lucien Laurin tightens the overgirth. Charlie Davis (aboard the pony) and Eddie Sweat take a moment – and make sure the blinkers are straight – with their stable star. Alone in front of a massive crowd on the Pimlico apron, Secretariat and Ron Turcotte head to the start.

> "One of my favorite pictures is of Eddie Sweat leading him out of the winner's circle – the styles of everybody back then are part of it, but the horse looks like he hasn't even broken a sweat. He was so calm about it."
>
> *– Photographer Cappy Jackson*

Fitchett pushed on Secretariat twice inside the gate to straighten him, and the six horses leapt to action when Eddie Blind – in the Preakness sports jacket he had custom made after getting permission from Woodholme Country Club (which apparently owned the pattern) – pressed his button to open the doors. Frank Blind made sure Ecole Etage left running. Jackson, sharing the starter's stand with Eddie Blind, focused on her assignment. From his stand along the outside rail opposite the quarter pole, Coley Blind aimed his binoculars and waited for the field to get back around to him.

George Cusimano sent Ecole Etage to the front as Secretariat dropped back to last. The local horse quickly put a couple lengths on Torsion as Laffit Pincay Jr. pulled Sham out of a pocket along the rail on the first turn and into third. Behind them, Secretariat was doing Secretariat things – lengthening stride, getting to the outside, circling around Deadly Dream and Our Native and pulling Turcotte to the front. They ran by Sham before the backside, passed Torsion and roared alongside Ecole Etage.

"I thought Secretariat would come from way back and I was going to try to run almost the same type of race [as the Derby], close to the pace and open up at the head of the stretch," Pincay said in April. "I thought I had a better chance than in the Derby. In the first turn, he made that very, very premature move."

The future Hall of Famer told himself, "Whoa, he's moving really soon" as Secretariat headed for the front.

A Mid-Atlantic regular without Pincay's experience, Cusimano thought the same and told Frank Blind what it felt (and sounded) like to lead the Preakness Stakes for not quite a half-mile.

"Georgie used to say it was like all the sudden he heard a freight train coming like, 'Vvvvffhh . . . Vvvvffhh . . . Vvvvffhh . . .' Blind said. "It must have been some feeling to feel like you were doing good and on the lead in the Preakness, but then you weren't."

Blind put it in Cusimano's words, "I had a handful of horse, just easing along and the next thing I know I see these big red nostrils, then a pair of blue and white blinkers and from then on I just knew it was over."

Turcotte wasn't asking Secretariat, wasn't doing much of anything, and he ran past the whole field in about a quarter-mile. In her family's box seats near the finish line, trainer Katy Voss watched and wondered.

"I was absolutely dumbfounded when he circled the field on the first turn," she said. "You just don't do that in a race. If it was one of my horses, I would have said, 'What's that jock doing?' And I would have expected him to finish up the track. Not that horse. They were going too slow for him. You see that sometimes, but not very often."

Pincay engaged Sham, way early, to try to cover the move. He made it to second as they swung into the far turn and past the overflowing infield crowd along the rail.

"Horses who do that are never going to last," Pincay said. "I just tried to lay close to him, not to lose sight of him. I thought for sure at the head of the stretch I had him, I hit Sham, and he responded but he couldn't come close to the other horse. He just kept on going."

Approaching the stretch and Coley Blind's spot, Secretariat pulled away. To his left, hundreds of fans poured across the turf course and into the alley between the two tracks.

"They were on the inside rail, that's all I could think about for a moment," the patrol judge said. "It was unbelievable. People were waving programs, yelling and screaming. He paid no attention to it. He lengthened stride, changed leads and went on with it."

The patrol judge didn't forget his job, but allowed himself to soak it in.

"I watched him come around the turn, scanned back to the field real quick – nothing there – and I went back to him. I turned into a fan like everybody else."

Jackson nailed a head-on shot of the stretch run, you can see Coley Blind in his stand, and tried to appreciate what she was seeing. At 18, there were few comparisons.

"I remember certain moments of it like it was yesterday," she said. "I had no idea I was witnessing history. What an incredible experience for a kid my age just getting started in the business. One of my favorite pictures is of Eddie Sweat leading him out of the winner's circle – the styles of everybody

Secretariat storms down the stretch.

Eddie Sweat leads the Preakness winner and Triple Crown hopeful out of the winner's circle, and past a slew of admirers.

back then are part of it, but the horse looks like he hasn't even broken a sweat. He was so calm about it."

Three weeks later, Secretariat completed his Triple Crown sweep with a 31-length, record-setting crescendo in the Belmont Stakes to forever stamp himself a racing legend. He made the covers of *Time*, *Newsweek* and *Sports Illustrated* in the same week. Later that year he added major turf wins to his record and retired to a stud career at Claiborne Farm after 16 wins, $1,316,808 in earnings and five Eclipse Awards – champion 2-year-old, champion 3-year-old, champion turf horse and two Horse of the Year crowns. Racing's Hall of Fame broke a rule and inducted him the following summer. Triple Crowns came again with Seattle Slew in 1977 and Affirmed in 1978, but there was only one Secretariat.

"If you could make a machine that would be a horse, you would copy him," said Coley Blind. "There have been good horses but, but, he was phenomenal. When I watched the Belmont, I actually had tears in my eyes watching him blow them away like that."

Jackson, on the roof of the Belmont Park grandstand to capture the furlong pole images for *The Blood-Horse* magazine, also focused through tears.

"Around the far turn, as he started pulling away, there wasn't anybody else in the pictures," she said. 'The sound of the crowd was this incredible, emotional din. All of it came wafting up to me on the roof."

Between starting races at Monmouth Park, Frank Blind and Danny Fitchett hopped the outside rail to watch the Belmont Stakes on a television in the grandstand.

"It was a phenomenal thing to be a part of," said Frank, who later became a golf pro and retired in Florida. "Just a big, big story."

Pincay became the winningest jockey in North American history, retiring in 2003 with 9,530 wins, five Eclipse Awards, four classic wins and a spot with Turcotte in the Hall of Fame.

"I became a fan of Secretariat," he said. "He was great for racing. The people loved him. He had a great owner. I liked the trainer. Ron was always a good friend of mine. It was a great team."

A little more than four years after that Preakness, Cusimano died in a single-car accident after a softball game at Delaware Park. He told the Preakness story everywhere he went.

Katy Voss became the answer to an unasked trivia question, training the winner of the race after the 1973 Preakness. Bred by her parents John and Kitty Merryman, Buffalo Run carried Hector Pilar to victory in a $7,000 starter handicap.

"I wouldn't remember winning that race, but I remember Buffalo Run," Voss said. "He was a cool horse, a dark bay

homebred. Buffalo Run is the name of a stream that runs through the farm."

Buffalo Run, the horse, was no Secretariat but even he had a connection to the 1973 Preakness. His sire, Big Brave, stood at Country Life Farm and was Sham's half-brother.

"We were rooting for Sham in the Derby," said Mike Pons, whose family has owned Country Life for 90 years. "I was not at that Preakness, but I remember my dad being dumbfounded by that move on the turn and guys talking about that. I love that great horses can show you glimpses of their sheer, raw ability. Only Secretariat could make that move and win."

Like his father and much of his family, Coley Blind weaved a long career through racing. Even with an 11-year absence from the sport, he saw five Triple Crown winners, the Sunday Silence-Easy Goer Preakness throwdown and wound up in the middle of the Codex-Genuine Risk foul-or-no-foul dispute in 1980. Secretariat will forever be Blind's measuring stick.

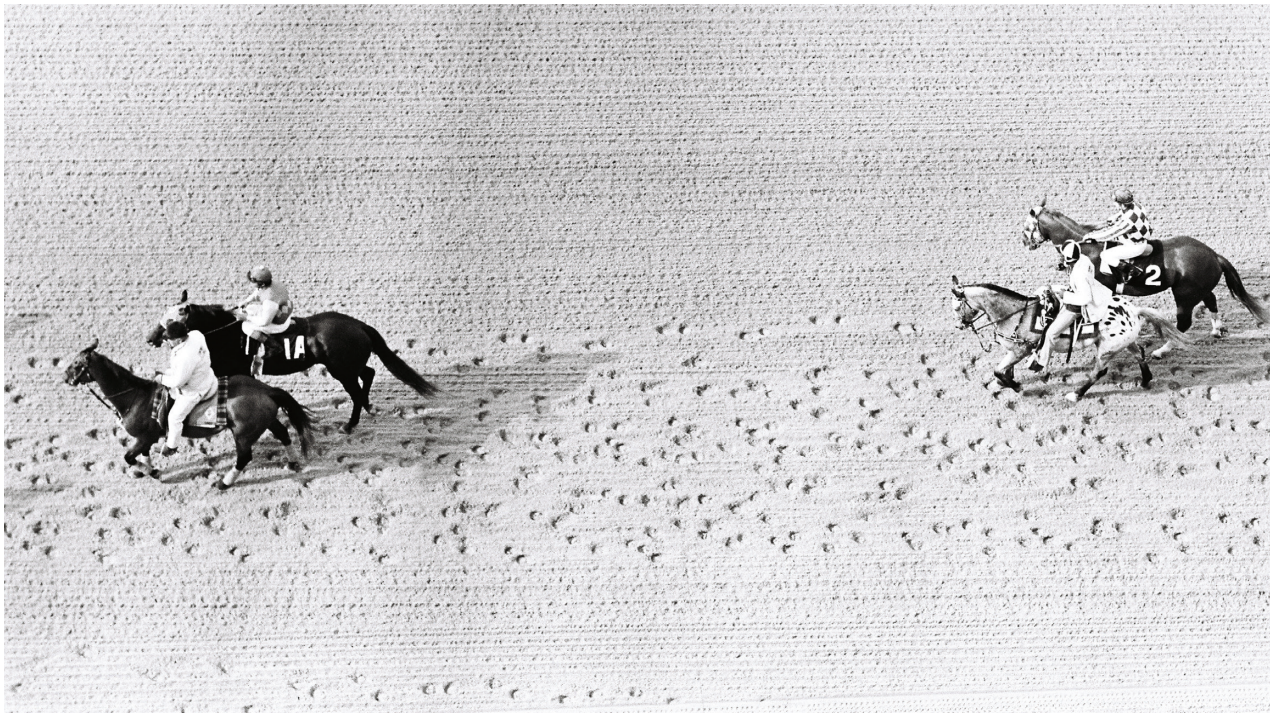
"It was my apex moment in racing," he said. "There were good horses and good races, but they were nothing like Secretariat. He never looked like he had to fight to do anything. He was doing everything with such ease because he had all the physical attributes to do it – the lung capacity, heart, muscle structure, everything was a perfect mix for him.

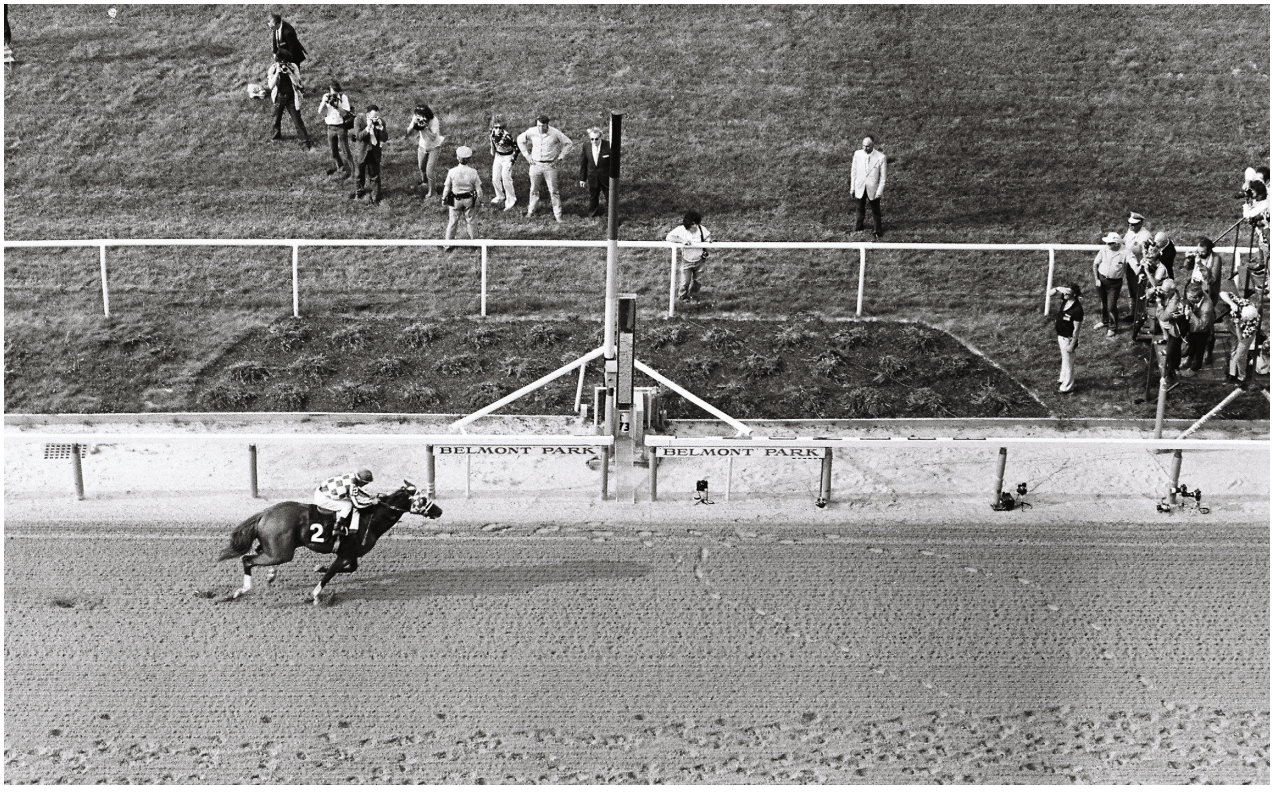
"When he made that move at Pimlico, that was just him and people knew they were seeing something extremely special." ■

Additional reporting by Sean Clancy.

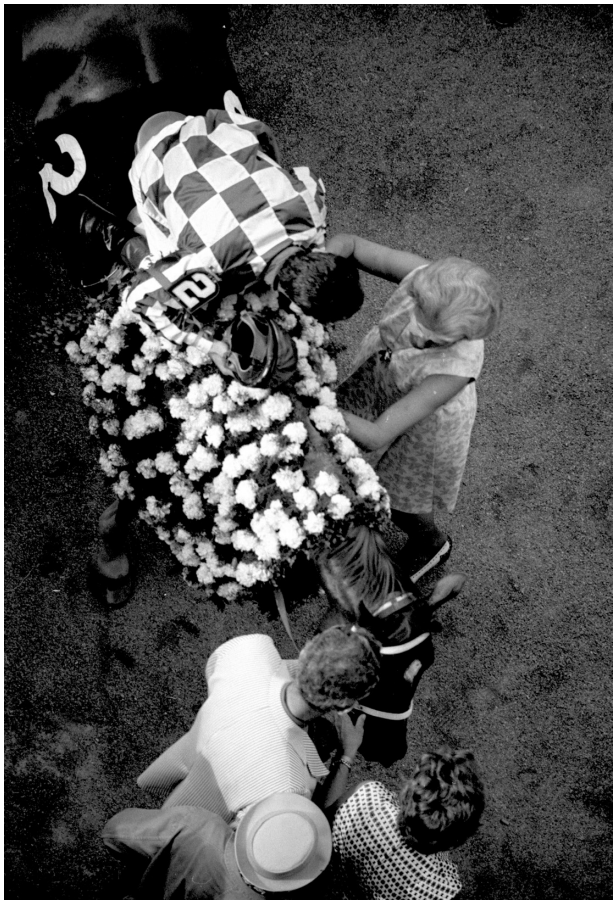
On the verge of history, and true greatness, Secretariat strolls the paddock (top) and heads to the post behind unlucky rival Sham (1A) for the Belmont Stakes at Belmont Park.

Unpublished until now, the images accompanying this article are part of the Cappy Jackson Collection of the Maryland Horse Library.





From a spot on the roof of the Belmont grandstand, Cappy Jackson captured unique views of the finish – and the aftermath.



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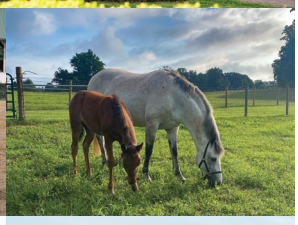

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Derby Dreams

PENNSYLVANIA-BRED ANGEL OF EMPIRE, VIRGINIA-RAISED FORTE EYE KENTUCKY GLORY

By Joe Clancy

Lil E. Tee and Smarty Jones. Ask any Pennsylvania Thoroughbred breeder about promising 3-year-olds and soon you'll hear about those two Keystone State heroes. That's the power of the Kentucky Derby-G1.

Lil E. Tee, bred by Larry Littman and foaled at Pin Oak Lane Farm in New Freedom, won the Derby in 1992. Smarty Jones, foaled at Someday Farm in Chester County, repeated the feat 12 years later.

And now, 19 years after Smarty Jones, Angel of Empire tries to make it three Pennsylvania-bred winners of America's greatest race.

Bred by Christian Black's Forgotten Land Investment and Black Diamond Equine and foaled at Blackstone Farm in Pine Grove, the bay colt was – as of early April – among the Derby's top five contenders. He was joined high on the points leaderboard by 2022 juvenile champion Forte, California-based Practical Move, gray charger Tapit Trice and the ultra-consistent Two Phil's. They'll be joined by the expected 15 others in the annual cavalry charge that is the Run for the Roses.

A month out, Black wasn't looking too far ahead but he was nonetheless proud of his horse and making plans to finally see him run at Churchill Downs May 6. Angel of Empire entered 2023 with two wins, at Horseshoe Indianapolis, in three starts as a 2-year-old and precious little attention on the Triple Crown trail. Then he finished second in the Smarty Jones Stakes at Oaklawn Park on New Year's Day, followed up with a victory in the Risen Star-G2 at Fair Grounds in February and repeated that triumph with a 4¼-length romp in the Arkansas Derby-G1 back at Oaklawn. Next stop Kentucky for the son of Classic Empire and the To Honor and Serve mare Armony's Angel.

"It's like a fairytale a little bit," said Black, a partner with Doug Black (no relation) in Blackstone and the owner of a smaller individual broodmare band. "You have to kind of pinch yourself, appreciate the process and the ride. There are a lot of people to be thankful for because horses go through so many hands to get to a place like the Derby."

Black bought Armony's Angel carrying the future millionaire for $67,000 at Keeneland November in 2019. Black liked her pedigree and was intrigued by Classic Empire, whose first crop was still more than a year from getting to the races. Blackstone breeds for the commercial market and Angel of Empire was part of the mix of well-bred foals born on the 350-acre farm in 2020. Destined for an auction ring, he went about his business like the others.

"He was one of those foals when they would go out in the field with 15 mares and foals, he would look at you like, 'Hey, I'm good. You don't need to worry about me,' and he would walk away," said Black. "He never grabbed your attention because he was sick or needed anything. He was a leggy foal, always later developing even through his yearling development."

He didn't meet his reserve as a weanling at Keeneland November in 2020, but kept the development train moving and was at Keeneland the following September.

"He was fairly immature all along, and when we sold him, we hoped he would end up with somebody who would take their time and understand what they had in their hands," said Black. "He wouldn't appeal to the 2-year-old guys, he just didn't look like an early-maturing horse. He was always a good moving horse, always used himself very nicely."

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Pennsylvania-bred Angel of Empire runs away with the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby at Oaklawn Park April 1.

Consigned by Warrendale Sales in Book Five, Angel of Empire brought $70,000 on a bid by Albaugh Family Stables.

"If you were going to buy him as a yearling, you would say, 'I want to run him as long as I can as late in his 2-year-old year as I can,' " Black said.

Trainer Brad Cox didn't wait that long, but wasn't in a hurry as Angel of Empire made his debut going a mile at Horseshoe in August. He won as the favorite with an inside rally. Switched to turf at Kentucky Downs a month later, he finished sixth going 6½ furlongs. Back to the dirt and a mile in November, he won again at Horseshoe to set the stage for the 3-year-old emergence.

"A lot of our horses, we like to start at Ellis Park or Indiana," said Jason Loutsch, co-owner with his father-in-law Dennis Albaugh. "We don't really care about where we break our maiden. We're not flashy like that. Our goal is to make the Kentucky Derby. If we break it at Prairie Meadows, [Horseshoe Indianapolis], Keeneland, Ellis Park, we don't care."

Like Black, Cox pointed to the horse's maturity and development.

"He's a horse we thought would get better with time and, obviously, age as well," the trainer said after the Arkansas Derby win. "And you know, he's obviously gotten better throughout the winter and he looks amazing. I think distance is probably an equalizer. He's not blessed with a tremendous amount of speed. He just kind of breaks. And he's not void of speed, but he kind of finds his way and they get away from him a little bit. But he settles. He's a very smart horse. Probably the biggest thing with him. Pretty big crowd here. There was a lot of noise in the paddock. Stands there and really presented himself well yesterday in the paddock and in the infield when we legged the riders up. He was on his toes, but he wasn't hot at all. He was feeling good. You could tell he was ready to run. Loved how he was acting mentally."

Blackstone bred and raised 2016 Derby starter Tom's Ready, sold a yearling for $1.1 million last summer at Saratoga and is annually among Pennsylvania's leading breeders, but

NICOLE THOMAS / COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Eclipse Award-winning 2-year-old Forte surges late to win the Grade 1 Florida Derby at Gulfstream Park April 1.

Derby-level success is new for Black who owns 10-15 mares himself.

"I'm a commercial breeder, but if you don't get emotional and don't feel a personal pride with being involved or breeding a horse like this you might want to find something else to do," he said. "Or maybe you need to have your perspective renewed a little bit. It's not easy to breed a stakes horse, a graded stakes horse, a Grade 1 horse, a horse in the Derby."

The Blackstone team has enjoyed the ride so far in 2023, and looks forward to more.

"The farm staff puts a lot into it, they're very proud, they follow it and they're screaming at the TV when they watch his races," said Black, who'd yet to see the horse run anywhere but on a television. "That's a great feeling on the farm, a big energizer. It's great to have some people to share it with."

Angel of Empire's dam had a Collected colt in 2021 who sold for $23,000 as a yearling. Named Third City, he belongs to Pennsylvania owner Ken Kachel. Her 2022 foal, born in late May, is a full-brother to Angel of Empire. She was not bred in 2022, but went to leading sire Gun Runner early this year.

"I bred her back to Classic Empire because I really liked the foal we had [Angel of Empire]," Black said. "It was a good mating pedigree-wise, but also physically. Three Chimneys was willing enough to trust me about Gun Runner this year because at that point Angel of Empire's best accomplishment was a second in the Smarty Jones. Give credit to them, they trusted me to do something that might be a little bit out of the box."

Clarke County Strong

Angel of Empire isn't the region's only connection to this year's Derby leaderboard as 2-year-old champion Forte – a Kentucky-bred – was raised at breeder Amy Moore's South Gate Farm in Clarke County, Va. Unbeaten in two starts this year, the Fountain of Youth-G2 in March and the Florida Derby-G1 in April – the probable Derby favorite was collecting fans all winter and spring.

"If I go to the post office, people are cheering him on," said Moore in April. "If I go to the grocery store, people want to know how he's doing. If I go to the gas station, people want to know if they should bet on him. It's a big deal around here. He's a local hero."

And a fitting one. Sold by Moore for $80,000 as a weanling, Forte brought $110,000 as a yearling and joined the squad of well-meant prospects owned by Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable. Trained by Todd Pletcher, the son of Violence won four of five starts in 2022 including Grade 1 scores in the Hopeful, Breeders' Futurity and Breeders' Cup Juvenile. The dark bay, out of Virginia-bred Blame mare Queen Caroline, did nothing wrong in his Derby preps other than provide some anxious moments in the Florida Derby. Breaking from post 11 of 12, he dropped well back early before passing four horses in the stretch and prevailing with a late surge.

"The Florida Derby was a heart-stopper to watch," said Moore. "For me anyway. I don't think Forte was very stressed about it, but I would sure like to get a better draw from the post position [in Kentucky]."

Bred by Morgan's Ford Farm, Queen Caroline produced a 2021 Uncle Mo colt who sold for $850,000 as a yearling. Her 2022 foal was born dead and she lost her 2023 foal, but earned a trip to Horse of the Year Flightline this year and was pronounced in foal while boarded at Kentucky's Chanteclair Farm.

"We're excited about what that might bring," said Moore. "She will probably stay in Kentucky. It doesn't seem to be worthwhile to bring her back for a short time. She's doing well and is happy." ■

> "I'm a commercial breeder, but if you don't get emotional and don't feel a personal pride with being involved or breeding a horse like this you might want to find something else to do."
>
> *– Christian Black, about Angel of Empire*

The Steeplechase Times

Team Win

OWNERS JOHNSTON, SHEPPARD WIN CAROLINA CUP WITH CARAMELISED

By Joe Clancy

Kentucky horseman Dr. Johnny Griggs died in 2016 after decades in the game as a veterinarian, owner, trainer, breeder and leader. Among a slew of standout achievements, he campaigned 1994 steeplechase champion Warm Spell, bred Grade 1 winner Midnight Lucky and helped start the High Hope Steeplechase.

His impact on racing, most especially steeplechasing, was on full display at the Carolina Cup Races April 1 as owners Gill Johnston and Sharon Sheppard won the featured novice hurdle stakes with recent import Caramelised (GB). Griggs introduced the two women in the 1990s, perhaps earlier, and they've augmented their individual stables by joining forces in a periodic partnership ever since. Caramelised, a 5-year-old trained in Pennsylvania by Leslie Young, is the latest.

"We both love the game, love our animals," said Sheppard, who lives in Hanover, Pa., of the partnership. "You don't have expectations. You have to evaluate what you're asking of the horse and then be realistic about your expectations. You actually have more fun that way. Everybody's happy when the horse does well. Of course, we're the crazy people who are as happy about winning a maiden claimer as we are a stakes race."

"I'm a horseperson, so I enjoy the horses," said Johnston, who lives near Chattanooga, Tenn. "I enjoy the horses and the people. I love the people who go steeplechasing. Everyone knows everyone, we're friends and people back you up and have a nice word when you do well. Of course, I enjoy it more when the horses get to the winner's circle, but it's a great time."

Griggs, as hands-on a horsemen as there may ever be, would approve of those two statements. He was old friends with Johnston's husband Skey, a top polo player and industry leader. Griggs connected with Sheppard, whose husband Peter's family founded the famous Hanover Shoe Farms Standardbred operation, through veterinarian and harness breeder Dr. John Egloff.

"Johnny used to stop by our place on the way from Kentucky to Saratoga," said Sheppard. "He introduced me to Gill and we've had fun ever since."

Johnston and Sheppard owned Greek Hero, who won 10 jump races from 1997-2004. Caramelised got off on the right hoof in the Carolina Cup, the $50,000 feature on the six-race card at Camden's Springdale Race Course April 1. A winner of three hurdle races in England for trainer Alan King, the son of Dansili (GB) and the Cozzene mare Caster Sugar rated in third for most of the 2⅛ miles, looked destined to settle for second jumping the last fence, then kicked in late to catch Welshman in the final yards and win by a length for jockey David England. Welshman stayed 7½ lengths clear of Step to the Bar in third.

Young and bloodstock agent Hamish Macauley found the winner via King, trainer of American winners Redicean (GB), City Dreamer (Ire), Invocation (Fr) and Gibralfaro (Ire) among others. Pedigree, type, race record all appealed to Young.

"I loved the mare, Cozzene on the dam side right?" said the trainer of an unscientific but successful rule for steeplechase (or turf) pedigree success. "He's not a huge horse by any means, but he traveled well, and he'd run well."

Off seven starts in 2022, Caramelised went to former jump jockey Noel Fehily's farm in England for a rest late last year and aimed for a spring campaign with Young.

"Noel said he was a little thin, he cribbed and just to get weight on him I think he needed the break," said Young.

TOD MARKS

Caramelised stretches over the last fence in the Carolina Cup in early April.

"Alan said he wasn't a great workhorse, but he works quite well here and I don't know but maybe the change of scenery helped. He hasn't put a foot wrong since we got him."

Neither of the winner's owners made the photo afterward as both stayed away thanks in part to weather-related travel issues.

"The stupid thing is neither of us were there," said Johnston with a laugh. "The weather was bad to get out by plane and I looked at his form and didn't think he would like the soft ground if it rained there. He certainly showed us."

"He had an incredible finish," said Sheppard, who watched the race via livestream. "I couldn't believe it. I was gobsmacked. All I ever want is for the horse to run as well as he can, and he ran great."

Johnny Griggs would have loved it.

A flat star graduates to jump winner

If you pay any attention to Thoroughbred racing, you've seen Kirk Wycoff's Three Diamonds Farm horses Bigger Picture, Field Pass, Army Wife, Atone, Fire At Will, Hembree, Next Question and others win major races all over the country.

Another familiar name, multiple graded turf stakes winner Cross Border, added a dimension to the Three Diamonds ledger with a $15,000 maiden hurdle score in the first race of the 2023 season at Aiken, S.C., March 25. Trained by Keri Brion after moving from Mike Maker's flat barn last year, Cross Border led throughout and overwhelmed six rivals in the 2 1/16-mile test restricted to horses who had started for a claiming price of $20,000 or less on the flat or over jumps. Cross Border, despite 11 wins and $1,183,354 earned on the flat, crossed that claiming threshold way back in 2017.

Brion jumped at the chance at an easy spot.

"It worked for me," she said. "The race was there; it was the right move for the horse where he could have a confidence booster instead of a hard race. He would have probably won the other maiden [with a purse of $25,000 compared to $15,000 for the starter] too."

TOD MARKS

A graded stakes winner and millionaire on the turf with trainer Mike Maker, Cross Border meets his people (including owner Kirk Wycoff, tan pants center) in the winner's circle after a maiden hurdle triumph at Aiken in March.

Bred in New York by Berkshire Stud and B.D. Gibbs, Cross Border won for the first time since December 2021 and stamped his ticket to more steeplechase opportunities. Brion took over the English Channel ridgling's training last summer, ran him once on the turf at Aqueduct in September and on the flat at the Far Hills steeplechase meet in October. Third there, Cross Border was pulled up in his jump debut at Charleston in November.

"He dropped off at the end of last year, didn't ship that great and I probably shouldn't have run him at Charleston," said Brion, based at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland. "He had a winter break though, came back in and you can tell he's a good horse. He's taken to the jumping. He likes it, genuinely enjoys it. That takes him a long way."

Cross Border isn't the first accomplished flat horse to make the conversion, following the likes of Grade 1 winner Hodges Bay (who won and placed in a stakes over jumps) in the 1990s and Grade 1 winner and Travers Stakes-G1 starter Uptown Swell (who won five jump races) in the 1980s and others. John's Call ran over hurdles before he won Grade 1 stakes on the turf. Champion sprinter of 1975, Gallant Bob made one start over hurdles (a fall) in 1979. Top Bid won a steeplechase championship in 1970 after running in the Sanford, Saratoga Special and Hopeful as a 2-year-old and three major Kentucky Derby preps at 3. Mr. Hot Stuff earned $478,500 over jumps after making the Derby and the Belmont Stakes on the flat.

For Wycoff, jump racing was an easy choice for Cross Border who didn't appreciate full winter breaks like some Three Diamonds turf horses and also didn't thrive training/racing in Florida. Brion and Wycoff's son Jordan (whose father-in-law Frank Mullins chairs the Aiken meet) met at Saratoga last summer, and several horses started making the transition. The idea fit for Cross Border.

"We wanted him to be in training in the winter because he likes it," said Kirk Wycoff. "From a weight standpoint he's done fantastic. I was at Aiken, and he looked as good as he's ever looked. This is a career he can do until he's 12 and this is what he likes to do and what he's good at. He's always been a tough character in the barn and now Keri's got a donkey for him and he's a little better."

The goal, Wycoff said, is a hurdle race at Saratoga – where Cross Border has won six times on the flat (including the Bowling Green Stakes-G2 twice) – this summer.

"He's very popular up there," said the owner. "It would be great for the horse if we can do something like that."

Through the Wings

Brion also won the Aiken feature, the $35,000 Conceal Imperial Cup Stakes for 4-year-olds, with The Insider (Ire) for Hudson River Farms, Madaket Stables and R and K Racing. Twice a winner in Ireland last summer and a winner in his American debut last fall, the son of Elzaam (Aus) set the pace for Parker Hendriks and had plenty left for Clara Belle to win by 3 lengths with Topic Changer third. Brion trained all three runners as entries at the circuit's first two stops were light.

A week later at the Carolina Cup, it was Young's turn for multiple wins as – in addition to Caramelised – the 2022

TOD MARKS

The Insider (right) outduels stablemate Clara Belle over the last in the Conceal Imperial Cup at Aiken.

champion trainer scored with Thomas Rice's Lumberjack in a maiden claiming hurdle and The Hero Next Door (Ire) in a maiden hurdle. The latter won by 19 lengths in his debut under rules after winning an Irish point-to-point.

Trainer Ricky Hendriks won two early handicap hurdle races, a 120 with West Newton (GB) for Upland Flats Racing and John Lewis at Aiken and a 115 with Fightinirishtabit for Daniel Denefrio at Camden.

Timber horses got started March 26 at Pennsylvania's Cheshire Foxhounds race meet. Young sent out Court Ruler (Ire) to win the featured $15,000 Joseph Walker Memorial Cheshire Bowl in a 14-length romp. Owned by Leipers Fork Steeplechasers, the winner won twice over hurdles last spring and scored over timber in November. Master Seville, bred in Pennsylvania by owner South Branch Equine, won the apprentice-rider timber for trainer Mark Beecher and jockey Brett Owings as three of the four starters went off course. Also at Cheshire, Black and Blue Stable's Fletched won a maiden timber for trainer Forrest Kelly and jockey Elizabeth Scully. The winner, a son of Etched, was bred in Maryland by Bonita Farm.

Virginia's Old Dominion Point-to-Point featured three NSA-sanctioned races as part of the April 8 card. Riverdee Stable's Fits the Jill won a filly/mare maiden hurdle over Dream North in a 1-2 finish for trainer Jack Fisher. Young picked up a maiden hurdle win with Michael Smith's Hoffman (Ire) and Stooshie (Ire) won over timber in a three-way photo with Storm Team and Nathanielhawthorne (GB) for owner Irv Naylor and trainer Cyril Murphy. ■

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Prime Time

SCHEFFRES RIDING HIGH WITH FACTOR IT IN, MAVILUS

By John Piassek

Michael Scheffres has been a racing fan for more than 50 years, and has been involved in Thoroughbred ownership for more than 20.

Over the past few months, Scheffres, who owns Scheffres Laundry Service in Beltsville, Md., has achieved new heights in racing. Factor It In, claimed by Scheffres for $25,000 in November 2019, has won three stakes at Laurel Park since October and placed in two graded stakes at Aqueduct. Mavilus, a $5,000 claim in January 2022, won the Maryland Million Distaff Starter Handicap last year and the Conniver Stakes at Laurel March 18 in a 26-1 upset.

BARRIE REIGHTLER

Michael Scheffres

For Scheffres, his experiences with Factor It In and Mavilus are the pinnacle of a long journey in racing. Growing up, he often went with his father to the tracks in Maryland, and was enraptured by the experience.

"Back then, all the men wore coats and ties, and everybody had these big *Racing Forms*, not like the little programs you see now," said Scheffres. "I tell you, it was so much fun. People get involved because they love going to the races, and that's what happened to me."

Scheffres got involved in the laundry business not long after graduating from Bradley University in 1971, but always imagined owning horses.

"My father had this one friend who owned horses, and the guy was like a hero. I figured, someday, I'd like to do that. It's like the poor man's sports ownership; it's like it's your team out there."

He got involved with partnerships, and in time branched out to owning horses himself. In October 2014, Scheffres claimed Hey Kid for $12,000 at Laurel, and won his first race with him two starts later.

Scheffres has always used Carlos Mancilla as his primary trainer. The native of Chile came to the United States in the 1980s and has been involved in the Maryland racing industry ever since. His brother, Oscar, won 367 races and more than $5.2 million in purse earnings as a jockey, and now works in Carlos' barn, which launched in 2009. Oscar is a key part of the operation; he gallops horses in the morning, and the brothers offer each other advice on the horses.

"I give all the credit to Carlos and his brother for Factor It In," said Scheffres. "They're such a dynamic team; I'm really lucky to have both of them. I always talk to [Carlos] when I like a horse, or when he likes a horse. If we're on the same page, we go for it. If he likes a horse and I don't, he respects that."

Factor It In caught their attention when he dropped into optional claiming company at Laurel in November 2019. Purchased for $75,000 by John Servis at the Keeneland

JIM MCCUE

Mavilus upset the Conniver Stakes at Laurel Park in March.

September yearling sale in 2017, the gray Kentucky-bred son of The Factor broke his maiden on debut for D. J. Stable at Parx in July 2018, but had won just once in seven starts since. Scheffres and Mancilla figured he was worth the $25,000 investment.

"[Michael] called me and said he liked the horse," said Mancilla. "I looked at him and I liked him too. He looked good in the paddock, and I said, 'OK, I'm gonna go for it.' Me and somebody else went for the horse, and we got him."

Factor It In won that day and twice in his next three starts. He went to the sidelines during the summer of 2020, returning on New Year's Day 2021 with a win in a third-level allowance at Laurel. After winning once in his next four starts, Factor It In went to the sidelines in September, and did not return to the races for 10 months.

"He was inconsistent, and we couldn't figure out why," said Scheffres. "So we sent him to our farm [in Ellicott City]. My wife Susan made me buy it about a year and a half ago, and it's been a great investment. We put him there for nine months, we brought him back, and since then, he's run great."

"Horses need vacations, just like anyone else," said Mancilla. "One day I talked to [Michael] and said we should give him a vacation. When he came back, he was better than before."

On July 10, Factor It In returned to the races with a head victory in allowance company which included stakes winners Alwaysinahurry, Eastern Bay and Exculpatory. Factor It In hit his best stride in the fall, winning October's Challedon Stakes at Laurel to give Scheffres his first stakes victory as an owner.

"He was doing better and better going in, and I was very, very happy when he won," said Mancilla. "Of course, you get excited when you win a stakes. I'm very happy whenever I win a race, whether it's a $5,000 claimer or a stakes. It's good for me, for my people, for the owners, for everybody at the barn."

Factor It In finished third in the Bold Ruler-G3 and the Fall Highweight-G3 at Aqueduct, before returning to Laurel and taking back-to-back stakes (the Dave's Friend over Beren, and the Fire Plug as the 7-10 favorite). Fourth in the General George-G3 Feb. 18 as the favorite, he rebounded with an open allowance victory at Laurel March 19, his fifth win in six starts over the track in the past eight months.

"I get such a kick out of Factor It In, he's my all-time favorite horse," said Scheffres. "If he was a human being, he'd be my

BARRIE REIGHTLER

Owner Michael Scheffres and trainer Carlos Mancilla have made a good team in Maryland.

JIM MCCUE

Factor It In, the owner's favorite horse, heads to victory at Laurel Park March 19 after a 2022 season that included two stakes wins and thirds in two Grade 3 stakes.

best friend. He has such class about him, and he's such fun to be around."

While Factor It In was on the farm, Scheffres and Mancilla set their sights on Maryland-bred filly Mavilus. The daughter of former Northview stallion Orientate and the Rock Slide mare Mavia was claimed for $5,000 at Laurel Jan. 21, 2022, and dominated the starter allowance ranks for the rest of the season. The headliner was the Maryland Million, where she came from 16½ lengths out of it to win by 3½ lengths.

"When we first claimed her, she was beaten 11 lengths, and I thought, 'I don't know if this was a good claim,' " said Scheffres of the bay mare bred by Kevin Morgan. "Next time out, she ran 6 furlongs, and she finished third, because that's not her distance, and ever since Carlos found the right distance for her, she hasn't been out of the money."

"She's an honest [mare]," said Mancilla. "It's very nice to work with her, nice to gallop her. Everybody loves her."

After another starter allowance victory in November, Mavilus received some time off.

"We brought her to the farm for a couple of months. That's the beauty of the farm. If you need a rest, you can just take 'em

BARRIE REIGHTLER

Sue Mancilla (left) and Susan Scheffres check on broodmare Younger Girl and her Alliance foal.

there. The farm has helped a lot. There's something to be said for it."

Third in an allowance to start her 2023 season Feb. 10, Mavilus headed for the Conniver Stakes for Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired fillies and mares.

"Carlos asked me if I wanted to go in the stakes or in a starter allowance," said Scheffres. "I said, 'Carlos, let's be realistic. I guess in the starter allowance, we'd have the best chance.' As it turned out, she wasn't eligible, so we didn't have a choice."

The gamble paid off. Under Jaime Rodriguez, Mavilus rolled from the back of the pack and won by a half-length.

"I said to him, Jaime, [the way you're going] you could ride me and win,' " Scheffres said. "He had perfect timing, but you've still got to have the horse to win, and she ran incredible."

Between Factor It In and Mavilus, Scheffres and Mancilla had suddenly teamed up for five stakes wins in six months between their two stable stars.

"It's a lot of fun to win. I'm rolling, I'm having fun," said Scheffres. "We're buying horses at the sale, we're always looking to claim."

> "That's the beauty of the farm. If you need a rest, you can just take 'em there. The farm has helped a lot. There's something to be said for it."
>
> *– Owner Michael Scheffres, about sending horses to his farm in Ellicott City, Md.*

Scheffres and Mancilla's wives, Susan and Sue, respectively, have begun getting involved with breeding. Their homebred 3-year-old filly, Diamond Sue, named in tribute to the two of them and a marking on her forehead, made her debut last September at Pimlico and has made $21,700 in her eight-race career.

"They get such a kick out of that," Scheffres said. "We've had three babies and two more are ready to be born soon. It's a lot of fun watching them grow. There's nothing like it."

NOTES: Laurel hosted four other stakes on the March 18 program. Pennsylvania-bred **Breezy Gust** overcame a wide trip to win the Not For Love Stakes for Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired sprinters. The son of Northview stallion Great Notion was bred by Michael Anspach. The winner is the first stakes winner for owner Trending Stable and trainer Josue Arce. Dexter Haddock had the winning mount . . . **Nimitz Class** made it three stakes wins in a row when he took the Harrison E. Johnson Memorial by 6¼ lengths as the 3-5 favorite. Tom Coulter's Pennsylvania-bred homebred trains at Penn National for Bruce Kravets and was ridden by Jevian Toledo . . . Kentucky shippers swept the 3-year-old stakes on the program. **Lady Lowery** went gate-to-wire to win the Beyond the Wire by 3 lengths. Jack Gilligan had the winning mount for owners Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Gary Barber and Wachtel Stable and trainer Will Walden . . . One race later, **Hayes Strike** pulled clear late and won the Private Terms by 1¾ lengths. The Dixiana Farms homebred is trained by Ken McPeek and was ridden by Horacio Karamanos . . . **Rodriguez** captured the winter meet riding title, with 58 wins to Jeiron Barbosa's 49. Rodriguez caught fire in March, winning with 29 of 82 mounts. His biggest day came March 17, when he tied a Laurel record by winning seven races on the card . . . **Jamie Ness** won the training title at the winter meet, sending out 34 winners. It was his sixth Maryland training crown, joining Pimlico spring titles in 2012, 2015 and 2019 and Laurel fall crowns in 2011 and 2012. ■

JEFFREY SNYDER

Nimitz Class made it three stakes wins in a row with a victory in the Harrison E. Johnson Memorial.

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— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

May – deadlines real and imagined

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It's hard to write about May on the farm because most things Thoroughbred are happening elsewhere; at Churchill Downs and Pimlico; at Great Meadow, Willowdale and Radnor; at Timonium and Devon; and at breeding sheds up and down the East Coast.

The trouble is, the breeding farm owner still has mares to foal, mares to tease and mares to take to those same breeding sheds. May is also time to start getting serious about yearlings who have had the run of the back acreage since November or December.

The yearlings we sorted by sex on St. Patrick's Day now have to be further sorted by sales destinations and the timing required to properly prep them. If Fasig-Tipton selected them for the July Sale or either Saratoga sale you are already nervous and probably brought them up in April. If the decision is between Keeneland September and Midlantic October that decision must be made in the first week of May. The deadline to enter September is May 1, but there is a small grace period before someone at Keeneland sends you an email with an absolute deadline.

Even drop-dead dates are flexible in extraordinary cases. We had a client with a farm in New Jersey, Larry Littman, and his farm was run by Mary Deppa, a fine horsewoman. In 1992, I had been up to visit the farm and saw a nice yearling filly by Imperial Falcon out of the For the Moment mare Eileen's Moment. Imperial Falcon (1983, Northern Dancer—Ballade, by *Herbager) was a beautifully bred $8.25-million Windfields-bred yearling who had not lived up to his billing and had come back to stand at Windfields Farm in Maryland for a modest fee. That year his oldest foals were 3-year-olds and the jury was still out on his prowess as a sire. However, the jurors were coming back in, and they were not smiling.

So what to my wondering eyes did I see on the first Saturday in May 1992 but Pat Day aboard Pennsylvania-bred Lil E. Tee passing Arazi, the brilliant juvenile champion, to win the Kentucky Derby. Did I mention Lil E. Tee was out of Eileen's Moment and bred by Larry Littman? A flurry of phone calls ensued; me to Mary, Mary to Larry, Larry to me, me to anyone at Fasig-Tipton who was not at the Derby. Finally, I caught up with Walt Robertson and a place at Saratoga was secured for Lil E. Tee's half-sister. As I said, deadlines are plastic and in August I'll tell the rest of the story.

So May can have exciting moments, but it can also be more of the same and with grass to mow.

There are lots of reasons why a mare is being bred in May and few are good. Some mares going to the breeding shed in May are making their second or third trips of the season.

Unfortunately, even with the best veterinary science, not every mare conceives on her first cover and, with the large books popular now, it is often impossible to arrange a breeding date that best suits the mare. Stud farms work tirelessly to accommodate everyone but even the most virile and energetic stallion sometimes can't handle the workload. A mare can suffer from a uterine infection and the treatment will delay her suitability for mating or, if she is slated to go to Kentucky, a sick foal may delay her departure. While those things are true and many are out of your control, in May you hear the clock ticking and are playing from behind.

That clock is a result of the commercial breeder's obsession with early foals. The thinking goes like this; if you plan to sell your homebreds as weanlings, yearlings, or even 2-year-olds the more mature they look, the more they will outsell their later-foaled crop mates. It is definitely true that weanlings born in January or February are much more mature in November than those born in May or June, and I have found that early foals have an advantage in the July Sale and at Saratoga. But by the September and October sales the "late" foals have made up significant ground on their older contemporaries. As with many recipes, patience is the most important ingredient in horse breeding.

The extraordinary success of the Timonium 2-year-old sale is a story dedicated to patience. Of course, it might also be that Paget Bennett and her crew have worked their asses off to make the sale what it is today.

May on the farm is visually glorious and as the foalings become less frequent you may even be able to sneak off to attend one of those equine rites of spring. Go to Timonium to reacquaint yourself with yearlings you sold last fall; attend a local hunt meet and see the other horsemen and neighbors you missed all winter or even attend a dinner party without your phone connected to the foaling cameras at home; but until the last mare has foaled and the last mare has been covered you are still a slave to the whims of nature in general and the equine reproductive cycle in all its quirky glory.

At least the mud has dried up, the grass is growing, and the trees are in full leaf. Nature and a few consecutive nights of sleep will make you forget about March and April and glad to be alive and living on a farm. ■

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New state racing authority could hold keys to future

By Joe Clancy

For a decade, Maryland's Thoroughbred industry leaned on a 10-year agreement between racetrack ownership, owners/trainers and breeders for stability – with relatively guaranteed purse levels, live racing days, training/stabling details and all the rest.

Even as questions lingered about the future of the facilities at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, the "10-year deal" anchored the industry. Racing wasn't going away – nor was it going to drastically change – because of the agreement negotiated by the Maryland Racing Commission. Of course, the agreement timed out at the end of 2022 and racing has operated on a six-month extension between The Stronach Group, the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

That deal ends June 30 and – in another effort at stabilization – the MHBA and MTHA embraced the creation of the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority by the state legislature in April.

Senate Bill 720 – expected to be signed by Gov. Wes Moore – created the authority and various mechanisms for its funding, direction, membership and future.

"The overall goal is to put a framework in that will allow for a transition if and when we need a transition," said Cricket Goodall, executive director of the MHBA. "The breeders are very supportive of this and want to work on the future of what Maryland racing and breeding looks like. We think it's important to work with the governor and the legislature. Racing and breeding are not going to be successful without strong support from the legislature."

Modeled after the Maryland Stadium Authority, which oversees sports facilities for the Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Ravens and other projects, the racetrack authority could operate racing in the absence of another entity to do so. The authority could own a track or training center and could enter into an agreement with an operator. Comparisons were drawn to California's Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, which operates racing at Del Mar via a lease with the state and the re-investment of any profits into the facility; and the New York Racing Association, a not-for-profit corporation that operates racing at Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course.

"The big thing is it gives us options," said Kent Murray, president of the MHBA. "We're trying to keep racing in Maryland and do what's best for Maryland. That's why the authority is so important. It allows us to have some control of that, within Maryland. A lot of stakeholders are going to be part of the authority, which is good. It's a state-controlled authority and puts it all in Maryland's hands, which is fantastic."

The move creates a new board in Maryland with a cross-section of members charged with submitting a report to the General Assembly on the future of racing by Dec. 1. Members of the authority will be appointed by the governor and include:

- One member nominated by the MTHA.
- One member nominated by the MHBA.
- Three other members who possess relevant industry, business or government experience (at least one of whom shall have experience in real-estate development or financial

services), one of whom shall serve as chair.

• The chair or executive director of the Maryland Stadium Authority, or their designee.

• The chair or executive director of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation, or their designee.

• A Senate President appointee, not an elected official.

• A Speaker of the House appointee, not an elected official.

In addition to those nine voting members, ex-officio participants will include a community member from near each of the racing properties (Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course and Bowie Training Center) and a member of the Maryland Racing Commission. A majority of the 13 members may not have a direct interest in Thoroughbred racing as owners, trainers or licensees.

The authority, which does not replace the racing commission and its regulatory responsibility, may hire an executive director and other staff. Funding for the authority will come from the newly created Maryland Racing Operations Fund, sourced from the Racing and Community Development Facilities Fund. That fund was to be the source of money necessary for the redevelopment of Laurel and Pimlico in legislation passed in 2020. Since then, however, costs have skyrocketed, tax laws have changed and other details have emerged to restrict the options for the full redevelopment of both properties. That funding mechanism involved the sale of $375 million in bonds by the state, which could still be part of a solution via the new authority.

The authority will study the options available and report to lawmakers about a way forward, which could include a variety of options such as new ownership of the tracks, the closure of Laurel Park, more year-round use of Pimlico Race Course, the creation of a training center at Bowie or another location and/or a combination of those factors.

In mid-April, negotiations for an extension of the current agreement were in the works between the state, the MTHA, the MHBA and The Stronach Group to create a framework for racing through 2023 and perhaps into 2024.

"The bill is a week old," said Murray, about the future (short- and long-term). "What form it will all take we will have to see. It sets up a better structure to utilize the funds that have already been allocated. The legislature set aside bonds for the racing industry and this allows that to be administered by a state organization, which is very powerful for Maryland racing." ❧

Maryland Horse LIBRARY AND EDUCATION CENTER

Library hosts book sale, signings as part of Preakness week

The Maryland Horse Library and Education Center will offer for the first time a duplicate book sale during Preakness week Wednesday, May 17 and Thursday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Reisterstown.

A large collection of classics, many out-of-print, as well as newer offerings will be available for purchase. In addition, local authors John Eisenberg, Jack Gilden, Josh Pons and Alvin Stone will be on hand at select times to sign books, with new copies available for sale.

On Thursday, May 18 at 4 p.m. photographer Patricia McQueen will do an author talk about her recently published *Secretariat's Legacy*, a collection of photographs and stories about Secretariat and his descendants. McQueen will do a book signing.

"The MHLEC has accumulated a great collection of duplicate books in storage, all of which would be a wonderful addition to someone's personal library," said library manager Cindy Deubler. "It's a horse-lover's and book-lover's dream."

Titles include:

• Numerous copies of the Thoroughbred Legends series, including those about Preakness winners Man o' War, Nashua, Native Dancer, Sunday Silence and War Admiral;

• A collection of books on Secretariat and Citation, this year celebrating anniversaries of their Triple Crowns seasons;

• Racing history books, including William H.P. Robertson's *The History of Thoroughbred Racing in America* and David Woods' *Fireside Book of Horse Racing*;

• Select years of the annual *American Race Horses* (published from 1936 to 1963), *Daily Racing Form* American Racing Manuals (including the years after Secretariat and Citation's 3-year-old seasons) and *Steeplechasing in America* yearbooks.

Visiting Author Schedule

Wednesday, May 17. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Josh Pons, Eclipse Award-winning writer of *Country Life Diary* and *Merryland* about the Pons family's farms in Harford and Baltimore counties. Baltimore native **Alvin Stone**, who gave the library's first author talk in February, about *Stoney: The Story of My Dad's Life, An African American Groom of Horse Racing*.

Wednesday, May 17. 1-3 p.m.

Baltimore author and sportswriter **John Eisenberg**, author of *Native Dancer: The Grey Ghost: Hero of a Golden Age*; *The Longest Shot: Lil E. Tee and the Kentucky Derby*; *The Great Match Race: When North Met South in America's First Sports Spectacle*; and (with jockey Edgar Prado) *My Guy Barbaro: A Jockey's Journey Through Love, Triumph, and Heartbreak*. Baltimore journalist **Jack Gilden**, the author of the recently published *The Fast Ride: Spectacular Bid and the Undoing of a Sure Thing*.

Thursday, May 18 - 4 p.m.

Photographer Patricia McQueen's author talk about *Secretariat's Legacy*. ❧

The Maryland Horse Library and Education Center plans to host programs the fourth Monday of every month.

Visit marylandhorse.com/library or follow the Maryland Horse Foundation on social media platforms for details.

American Horse Council conducts national economic impact study

(American Horse Council release)

The last three years have been a time of great change throughout the country for homes, businesses and industries. Rising costs of living, shrinking of assistance and changes in demographics have affected the world, and that includes the equine industry.

However, not all of the changes are easy to identify. Which is why the American Horse Council kicks off what could be one of the biggest studies in its more than 50 years with the 2023 National Economic Impact Study.

Major economic changes have occurred during the past five years. Business closures and resulting federal stimulus programs related to the pandemic made a major impact, and the horse industry has adapted to historic changes made to the tax code since 2017.

An economic impact study examines the effect of an event or industry on the economy and usually measures changes in business revenue, business profits, personal wages, and/or jobs. As a large, economically diverse industry, the United States horse industry contributes significantly to the American economy.

The purpose of the census is to demonstrate the value of the equine industry in the national and state economies by analyzing the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of horse ownership, recreation and equine-related services.

The AHC has conducted numerous national economic impact studies for the U.S. horse industry, including the pivotal years of 1987, 1997, 2007 and, the most recent study, 2017.

"The challenges of the last few years with the pandemic and its economic impacts on all aspects of our industry make the 2023 study all that more important and necessary," said Dr. Rick Mitchell, chairman of the AHC board.

Data will inform public and private investments in equine-related businesses, equine health care, education, land use, tax policy, tourism, employment incentives, etc. The survey began April 3 and runs through Sept. 29.

New this year are sponsored incentives for individuals and groups who participate in the survey, including chances to win a John Deere Z545R ZTrak Mower valued at $7,500, one year of Nutrena feed for one horse (a $2,000 value); one year of Purina feed for one horse (a $500 value/horse); gift certificates from Trafalgar Square Books (total value $180); enrollment in Texas A&M AgriLife Equine Reproductive Management Online Course valued at $300/enrollment; plus more.

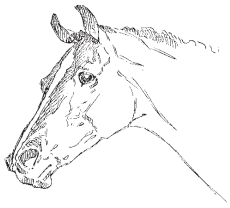
"The Economic Impact Study is the most effective tool in our advocacy quiver," says Julie Broadway, president of the AHC. "When the industry needs to take aim at an issue, this data is invaluable in helping us paint the picture of the contributions the industry makes and the breath and depth of its composition."

For more details and/or to particpate in the study, see horsecouncil.org or email jbroadway@horsecouncil.org. ❧

Register your Maryland-bred yearling by May 31 and Save a Bundle.

MHBA status	By May 31st of yearling year	June 1st or later	Savings
Breeder/Owner Member	**$100**	**$275**	**$175**
Non-member*	**$300**	**$475**	**$175**

Check eligibility and register online at MarylandThoroughbred.com. Maryland-breds must be registered with the MHBA in order to earn bonuses from the Maryland Bred Race Fund Program. Questions? Call the MHBA at 410-252-2100 or email registrar@marylandthoroughbred.com



Maryland Foal Report

ALL FLATTER, by Flatter, b.c., April 11, by Rainbow Heir. New Farm Breeding Inc. Mare to Rainbow Heir.

ANOTHERLOVEOFMINE, by Not For Love, ch.f., March 8, by Irish War Cry. Jason Cole.

ANYDAYISMYDAY, by Afleet Alex, b.c., Feb. 26, by Paynter. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Corniche.

APPLAUD, by Medaglia d', ch.c., Feb. 15, by Maximus Mischief. The Stables at Mezza Luna LLC. Mare to Vekoma.

ASSUME, by Candy Ride (Arg), b.c., Feb. 25, by Omaha Beach. James Loures. Mare to Omaha Beach.

AWESOME DAMA, by Corinthian, b.f., March 21, by Girvin. Maria M. Haire.

BELLA MONETA, by Max's Pal, dk.b./br.f., March 27, by Cloud Computing. Barak Farm.

BELLE VLADA (IRE), by Kheleyf, dk.b./br.c., March 19, by Blofeld. Robert Atkinson and Mary Atkinson.

BUYHAPPY, by Runhappy, dk.b./br.f., Feb. 25, by Divining Rod. James McIngvale.

CALLA LUNA, by Cape Blanco (Ire), b.c., April 8, by Always Dreaming. The Stables at Mezza Luna LLC.

CANDYSTAND, by Candy Ride (Arg), dk.b./br.f., Feb. 26, by Independence Hall. Michael Trombetta.

CASABLANCA LILY (IRE), by Hurricane Run (Ire), ch.c., March 31, by Imagining. Rebecca Beecher and Holly Belt.

CHARM CITY, by City Zip, ch.f., March 8, by Mitole. Dr. Ronald H. Parker. Mare to Flameaway.

CODE NAME TAURUS, by Bullsbay, b.f., March 3, by Hoppertunity. Erika Neuberg.

COURAGEOUS JULIE, by Pioneerof the Nile, b.f., March 27, by Neolithic. Maria M. Haire.

DYNAMIC WAR, by War Chant, b.c., March 3, by Flameaway. Roger Simons Jr.

ENTERPRISE VALUE, by Bellamy Road, ch.f., March 1, by Tacitus. Leaf Stable.

ENTHRONED, by Empire Maker, ch.c., March 14, by Golden Lad. Jacqueline Vaughn and Jennifer Small.

ESTIVAL, by Summer Front, b.f., March 24, by Mitole. The Stables at Mezza Luna LLC. Mare to Mitole.

FASTERTHANFAST, by Brethren, b.f., March 12, by Ecliptical-spraline. Mary K. Haire.

FIFTY NAYS FOR HAY, by Real Estate, dk.b./br.f., April 1, by Irish War Cry. Louis Carrico.

GABBY'S BROWN, by Big Brown, b.c., March 4, by Code of Honor. Clover Hill Farm Inc. Mare to Maximum Security.

GENTLE THOUGHTS, by Bodemeister, b.c., March 12, by Mosler. Matthew Bright.

GIULIANA VEE, by Into Mischief, dk.b./br.c., April 3, by Dialed In. Warning Drums Racing LLC.

HICKORY MADE, by El Padrino, b.f., March 24, by Lost Treasure (Ire). Constance L. Smith.

IMAGINE A STAR, by Can the Man, b.f., March 26, by Golden Lad. Flying H Stables LLC.

JUDYMOON, by Two Punch, dk.b./br.f., March 20, by War Dancer. Cathy Denelsbeck. Mare to Bourbon Courage.

JUNE ANN (IRE), by Acclamation, b.f., March 20, by Hit It a Bomb. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Goldencents.

JUST DESSERTS, by Outflanker, ch.f., Feb. 13, by Paynter. The Stables at Mezza Luna LLC.

LITTLE LAUGHS, by Algorithms, ch.f., March 8, by Galawi (Ire). Joseph Victor Procopio.

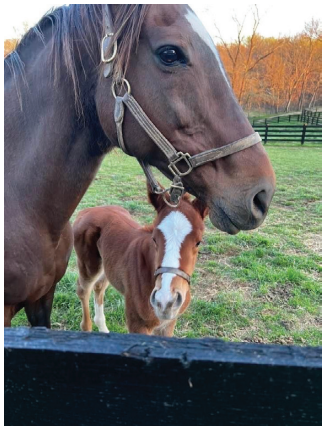
MEOW, by Gio Ponti, b.c., March 13, by Uncle Lino. Paul O'Loughlin.

MURMUR, by Arch, b.c., Feb. 27, by Omaha Beach. Glenangus Farm LLC.

MY GIRL TRICKSY, by Hat Trick (Jpn), dk.b./br.c., March 17, by Juba. Lee Vosters.

Gail Poulos

Jim and Gail Poulos welcome a Blofeld colt out of their homebred mare Sweet Walela.



Glenangus Farm's filly by First Mondays takes a peek behind mom Pearly Beach.

Lydia A. Williams

Maryland Broodmare of the Year Slow and Steady (by Malibu Moon), dam of seven stakes performers, has a Great Notion filly this year.

Lydia A. Williams

First Mondays colt bred by Tom and Chris Bowman is out of Persnickity, a stakes-placed earner of $424,980.

Holly Belt

Imagining colt out of Casablanca Lily (Ire) is a full brother to stakes-placed hurdle horse Bogey's Image.

ONE MORE SHOE, by Giacomo, b.c., March 19, by Engage. Northview Stallion Station.

OUR CURLENE, by Curlin, dk.b./br.f., April 2, by Mor Spirit. Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen. Mare to Practical Joke.

PEACH OF A GAL, by Curlin, b.f., March 25, by Ghostzapper. Glenangus Farm LLC. Mare to Omaha Beach.

PEARLY BEACH, by Tiznow, ch.f., April 3, by First Mondays. Glenangus Farm LLC.

PLAYFUL LOVE, by Tapit, b.c., Feb. 24, by Higher Power. Country Life Farm and Guidera McKenney Equine LLC. Mare to Vino Rosso.

ROCKSTAR GIRL, by Maclean's Music, ch.c., March 18, by Engage. Dam Sires' Dreams Racing Stables.

RULES FOR US, by Constitution, b.f., Feb. 24, by Mo Town. MCA Racing Stable LLC.

SEATTLE SECRET, by Bodemeister, dk.b./br.c., March 25, by Engage. Joan A. Wilson.

SECRET WITNESS, by Tiznow, b.f., March 29, by Golden Lad. Horseshoe Valley Equine Center LLC.

SHE AIN'T BAD, by Where's the Ring, b.c., March 12, by Engage. Sandee D. Martin.

SMART POLICY, by Smart Strike, b.f., March 22, by Union Rags. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Hard Spun.

SOMETHIN' UNUSUAL, by Unusual Heat, b.c., April 5, by Modernist. Louis Carrico.

STREET WALTZ, by Street Cry (Ire), ch.c., Jan. 22, by Maximus Mischief. The Stables at Mezza Luna LLC. Mare to Greatest Honour.

STRIKING BELLA, by Smart Strike, b.c., April 3, by Vekoma. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Mystic Guide.

SWEET ON SMOKEY, by Successful Appeal, b.f., March 6, by Engage. BB Horses. Mare to Uncle Lino.

SWEET WALELA, by Congaree, ch.c., April 6, by Blofeld. Sweet Spirits Stables LLC.

THAT'S EXCITING, by Neko Bay, ch.c., March 30, by Uncle Lino. Beasie Patterson.

TRI AGAIN, by Creative Cause, b.f., March 6, by Gormley. Maria M. Haire.

TUNNEL STRIKE, by English Channel, dk.b./br.f., April 3, by Goldencents. Timothy J. Rooney. Mare to Frosted.

UNENTANGLED, by Not For Love, b.c., March 31, by West Coast. Clover Hill Farm Inc. Mare to Golden Lad.

WHO NEEDS, by Montbrook, b.f., April 7, by Mucho Macho Man. Clover Hill Racing LLC. Mare to Mendelssohn.

YOUGOTTABEKITTEN, by Kitten's Joy, b.f., Feb. 27, by Irish War Cry. Samotowka Stables. Mare to Raging Bull (Fr).

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run in January 2023 at Maryland tracks

Geisha Stakes

January 21. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 1 mi. 7 competed. (Closed with 18 nominations.) Winner: AWARD WANTED, by Macho Uno. Breeder bonus: Alexandro Rubim-Dias ($10,125). Stallion bonus: None. Second: BOURBON WILDCAT, by Bourbon Courage. Breeder bonus: Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Shawn M. Howser ($3,375). Stallion bonus: Bourbon Courage Syndicate ($1,125) Third: MALIBU BEAUTY, by Buffum. Breeder bonus: ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: Buffum Syndicate ($562.50).

Jennings Handicap

January 21. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 1 mi. 8 competed. (Closed with 20 nominations.) Winner: PLOT THE DOTS, by Uncle Mo. Breeder bonus: The Elkstone Group LLC ($10,125). Stallion bonus: None. Second: GALERIO, by Jump Start. Breeder bonus: Daniel E. Marconi ($3,375). Stallion bonus: None. Third: OURNATIONONPARADE, by Cal Nation. Breeder bonus: John E. Williamson III ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: Cal Nation Syndicate ($562.50).

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Linda L. Albert—Mit Mazel: Jan. 1, 4th race, $5,400; Jan. 13, 7th race, $2,160. ($7,560)

Helen C. Alexander—Baton: Jan. 14, 6th race, $2,160.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Citi Creek: Jan. 1, 1st race, $1,305. She'sarollingstone: Jan. 13, 7th race, $6,480. Uncommon Valor: Jan. 16, 6th race, $517.50. Vance Scholars: Jan. 14, 8th race, $8,370. ($16,672.50)

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Finn's Nickel LLC—R B's the Boss: Jan. 28, 9th race, $1,215.

Barak Farm—Vodkatini: Jan. 20, 1st race, $5,805.

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Isabella's Glory: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $990; Jan. 22, 1st race, $7,020. Trash Talkin Larry: Jan. 14, 1st race, $990. ($9,000)

David Baxter Sr.—Miss Casey: Jan. 15, 1st race, $3,240. Jan. 27, 2nd race, $2,295. ($5,535)

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Need a Marker: Jan. 29, 1st race, $3,510.

Bell Gable Stable—Willful Desire: Jan. 21, 9th race, $3,915/$1,305. ($5,220)

Teresa L. Beste—Demo Doctor: Jan. 16, 8th race, $1,080.

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Jones Falls: Jan. 7, 3rd race, $4,860/$1,620. The Last Scip: Jan. 20, 2nd race, $1,035. ($7,515)

Bonita Farm—Never Done: Jan. 6, 9th race, $1,552.50. Jan. 28, 3rd race, $900. ($2,452.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Cynergy's Electra: Jan. 22, 3rd race, $7,020/$2,340. Find Faith: Jan. 8, 6th race, $5,940/$1,980. Proper Attire: Jan. 16, 4th race, $4,320. ($21,600)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Mama's Eyes: Jan. 13, 6th race, $990.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Great Go Go: Jan. 13, 4th race, $2,430.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Shawn M. Howser—Bourbon Wildcat: Jan. 1, 8th race, $2,610; Jan. 21, 5th race, $3,375. ($5,985)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—Up Against It: Jan. 8, 7th race, $4,320; Jan. 29, 6th race, $1,440. ($5,760)

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Rustys Gfivefifty: Jan. 14, 6th race, $1,080.

Shellaine Brown, Susan Baldrige, Horseshoe Valley, Treasure Stable—Going to the Lead: Jan. 29, 4th race, $1,575.

Jerome C. Burdick—Tenax: Jan. 20, 9th race, $1,035.

CandyLand Farm—Flaming East: Jan. 21, 2nd race, $3,240.

Estate of Sherman Chin—Saint Eros Girl: Jan. 15, 5th race, $1,080.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—Ladneedsahandler: Jan. 1, 2nd race, $3,240.

Cottonwood Stable LLC—Seven's Eleven: Jan. 27, 7th race, $7,020/$2,340. ($9,360)

Country Life Farm—Response Time: Jan. 7, 8th race, $2,790.

Country Life Farm, Paul Berube and Karen Linnel—Captain Quint: Jan. 28, 1st race, $4,860/$1,620. ($6,480)

Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Liquidator: Jan. 7, 6th race, $5,400. Wonder Water: Jan. 6, 1st race, $607.50. ($6,007.50)

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—Sapphire Beauty: Jan. 13, 9th race, $562.50; Jan. 29, 8th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($5,062.50)

Country Life Farm and Union Waters LLC—Moses Water: Jan. 20, 5th race, $1,305.

Country Roads Ltd.—Lootah: Jan. 20, 5th race, $652.50. My Flicker: Jan. 15, 5th race, $6,480. Utterly Enchanting: Jan. 6, 5th race, $765; Jan. 27, 2nd race, $765. ($8,662.50)

Crystal Park Stables Inc.—Brilliant Ice: Jan. 16, 8th race, $2,160.

Dark Hollow Farm—Haleigh B: Jan. 22, 7th race, $2,430. Hot N Spicy Love: Jan. 22, 2nd race, $495. Oxide: Jan. 6, 7th race, $1,170; Jan. 22, 2nd race, $2,970. Snack: Jan. 21, 1st race, $990. ($8,055)

Deer Creek Racing—Mo Fire: Jan. 16, 9th race, $540.

Lisa S. Delp and Rodney Jenkins—Blue Moon Bunny: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $1,980.

Joanne Doneski and Cynthia English—Noble Prendergast: Jan. 14, 4th race, $776.25.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Hot Lookin Royal: Jan. 16, 1st race, $1,260.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—Gormley's Gabriela: Jan. 28, 6th race, $2,430.

Finn's Nickel LLC and Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Exculpatory: Jan. 7, 4th race, $1,395.

Finn's Nickel LLC and Copper Penny Stables—Bourbon On the Bay: Jan. 20, 5th race, $3,915/$1,305. ($5,220)

Fitzhugh LLC—Espresso Lungo: Jan. 28, 10th race, $562.50. Welling: Jan. 8, 4th race, $2,430. ($2,992.50)

William and Mary Gale—Highland Dream: Jan. 13, 2nd race, $1,620.

Robert J. Gerczak—Antipoison: Jan. 6, 2nd race, $1,170. Dialing Dixie: Jan. 13, 4th race, $810. Hov Lane: Jan. 22, 6th race, $1,035. ($3,015)

Germania Farms—Omo Dada: Jan. 15, 4th race, $990.

Glenangus Farm LLC—Deeds of Love: Jan. 13, 6th race, $5,940. Grand Manner: Jan. 28, 10th race, $3,375. ($9,315)

Michael J. Harrison DVM—Donna's Courage: Jan. 16, 5th race, $810.

Holly House Farm—Arden'sluckytobe: Jan. 27, 1st race, $7,020/$2,340. ($9,360)

Hope Hill Farm—Imagine a Cure: Jan. 14, 2nd race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Hot Silks Racing Stable LLC—If Then: Jan. 16, 9th race, $1,080.

Ann B. Jackson—Brzina: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $5,940/$1,980; Jan. 22, 1st race, $2,340. ($10,260)

Jagger Inc.—Bossyness: Jan. 7, 1st race, $3,915/$1,305; Jan. 28, 5th race, $776.25. Chickieness: Jan. 21, 3rd race, $4,500.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2023

(through April 4)

1. Eastern Bay	$166,500	11. Easy Action	$79,800
2. Fuhgeddaboudit	116,880	12. Torch of Truth	76,880
3. Fille d'Esprit	110,000	13. I'm Gittin There	75,140
4. Mit Mazel	106,020	14. Seven's Eleven	73,440
5. Response Time	105,340	15. Award Wanted	72,500
6. Coffeewithchris	100,000	16. Cactus	69,500
7. Excellorator	97,060	17. Going to the Lead	66,790
8. Dancing Sophia	95,150	18. Captain Quint	66,700
9. Liquidator	85,110	19. Clubman	65,370
10. Al Loves Josie	82,800	20. Holy Synchronicity	65,050

Muchacho Macho: Jan. 8, 4th race, $810. ($11,306.25)

R. Larry Johnson—Call Me Maestro: Jan. 13, 5th race, $3,645. Despite Odds: Jan. 20, 2nd race, $517.50. Naval Empire: Jan. 20, 8th race, $1,215. Notimelikepresent: Jan. 28, 10th race, $1,125. Quit Quay: Jan. 15, 6th race, $1,125. ($7,627.50)

JSM Equine LLC—Gamestonks: Jan. 7, 7th race, $4,320; Jan. 13, 7th race, $1,080. ($5,400)

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Blame the Bourbon: Jan. 8, 8th race, $3,510; Jan. 20, 4th race, $1,552.50. Hay Diddle Diddle: Jan. 7, 9th race, $1,305; Jan. 28, 1st race, $810. Holy Synchronicity: Jan. 16, 8th race, $6,480. Stardust Ziggy: Jan. 14, 4th race, $4,657.50. ($18,315)

Lewis Family Racing Stable—Celtic Cousen: Jan. 8, 6th race, $990; Jan. 27, 1st race, $2,340. ($3,330)

Kenneth F. Lowe Jr.—Fowl Nation: Jan. 8, 1st race, $1,125.

Magic Carpet Racing—Elusive Image: Jan. 13, 1st race, $1,305.

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—Only Child: Jan. 16, 6th race, $3,105; Jan. 27, 6th race, $1,080. ($4,185)

Daniel E. Marconi—Galerio: Jan. 21, 4th race, $3,375.

Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable—Good Story: Jan. 29, 3rd race, $1,125. Lamarvelous: Jan. 21, 1st race, $5,940/$1,980. ($9,045)

Peter D. Mattson—Angelofcanterbury: Jan. 7, 6th race, $900.

Charles C.D. McGill—Wyatt Ridgely: Jan. 20, 4th race, $776.25.

Kevin P. Morgan—Rahmer: Jan. 1, 2nd race, $1,080; Jan. 21, 2nd race, $1,080. ($2,160)

No Guts No Glory Farm—Cocktail Dreaming: Jan. 6, 9th race, $776.25; Jan. 20, 3rd race, $1,170. Fuhgeddaboudit: Jan. 1, 7th race, $2,430; Jan. 22, 7th race, $7,290. General J R: Jan. 7, 3rd race, $1,620. ($13,286.25)

Clarke Ohrstrom—Jardani: Jan. 27, 4th race, $1,215.

Douglas Oswald—Monyinthebanksey: Jan. 8, 4th race, $405.

David W. Palmer—Laramore: Jan. 28, 5th race, $1,552.50.

Charles V. Parker—Forth: Jan. 28, 7th race, $4,860. Mose Perfect: Jan. 14, 6th race, $6,480. ($11,340)

A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: Jan. 27, 1st race, $1,170. No More Mask: Jan. 20, 6th race, $1,170. Sullivan Street: Jan. 29, 8th race, $1,125. Wired In: Jan. 14, 5th race, $562.50. ($4,027.50)

Joel Politi—Dunder Boss: Jan. 20, 3rd race, $3,510.

R.C. Park Racing Stable Inc.—Waverley: Jan. 15, 8th race, $562.50.

Randy Ridgely—Badger Tooth: Jan. 8, 5th race, $1,080.

Rolling Meadows Farm—Brooklyn Girl: Jan. 22, 3rd race, $2,340. Pride of Payton: Jan. 15, 4th race, $1,980. ($4,320)

Thomas Rooney—Coffeewithchris: Jan. 21, 8th race, $4,500.

Alexandro Rubim-Dias—Award Wanted: Jan. 21, 5th race, $10,125.

Shamrock Farm—Albertano: Jan. 6, 2nd race, $3,510; Jan. 28, 2nd race, $1,170. ($4,680)

Timothy J. Shaw and Alicia Morgan—Bump N Run: Jan. 15, 4th race, $5,940.

Skeedattle Associates—Best Choice Baby: Jan. 27, 3rd race, $1,305.

Hamilton A. Smith—I'm Gittin There: Jan. 1, 7th race, $7,290; Jan. 15, 5th race, $2,160. ($9,450)

Clare Sokolsky—Fortunata Italia: Jan. 15, 1st race, $1,080.

Bob G. Sowder—Irish Lace: Jan. 21, 9th race, $652.50.

James B. Steele Jr.—Hampden Lane: Jan. 13, 5th race, $1,215.

Super C Racing Inc.—Fartlek: Jan. 27, 9th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Sweet Spirits Stables LLC—Fille d'Esprit: Jan. 21, 7th race, $13,500. Sweet Asta: Jan. 8, 5th race, $540; Jan. 27, 6th race, $3,240. ($17,280)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Circling the Drain: Jan. 29, 7th race, $2,430. Dulce Kiara: Jan. 6, 5th race, $2,295. Feeling Woozy: Jan. 29, 7th race, $7,290. Frightland: Jan. 6, 6th race, $2,430. Goodafternoonoscar: Jan. 27, 7th race, $1,170. Sweet Gracie: Jan. 1, 8th race, $1,305. Torch Carrier: Jan. 14, 9th race, $405. Your Analysis: Jan. 8, 6th race, $1,980. ($19,305)

The Elkstone Group LLC—Cover the Spread: Jan. 28, 6th race, $1,215. Plot the Dots: Jan. 21, 4th race, $10,125. Red Wine Time: Jan. 1, 5th race, $1,575. Torch of Truth: Jan. 14, 7th race, $5,400. Vax a Nation: Jan. 21, 1st race, $1,980. ($20,295)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Bali Hai: Jan. 15, 8th race, $3,375/$1,125. Lost Weekend: Jan. 28, 9th race, $2,430. Raise Your Game: Jan. 15, 1st race, $540. ($7,470)

Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—Still Having Fun: Jan. 29, 5th race, $2,295.

Walter N. Vieser II—Blameitonthefun: Jan. 8, 5th race, $3,240. Flimsy: Jan. 20, 1st race, $967.50. ($4,207.50)

Susan Wantz—He's On Fire: Jan. 13, 1st race, $3,915/$1,305. ($5,220)

Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Greenspring Mares LLC, Bowman and Higgins Stable and Gregory Caliwag—Local Motive: Jan. 16, 7th race, $1,305.

John E. Williamson III—Ournationonparade: Jan. 21, 4th race, $1,687.50.

Donald Clifford Wilson—Thencomemorning: Jan. 22, 5th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Winding Creek Farm—Dr. Snyder: Jan. 22, 9th race, $810.

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—Malibu Beauty: Jan. 21, 5th race, $1,687.50.

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Hov Lane: Jan. 22, 6th race, $345): Robert Gerczak.

BANDBOX (Blue Moon Bunny: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $660. Dulce Kiara: Jan. 6, 5th race, $765. Seven's Eleven: Jan. 27, 7th race, $2,340. Sweet Gracie: Jan. 1, 8th race, $435): Bandbox Syndicate—$4,200.

BARBADOS (Albertano: Jan. 6, 2nd race, $1,170; Jan. 28, 2nd race, $390. Hampden Lane: Jan. 13, 5th race, $405): Shamrock Farm—$1,965.

BLOFELD (Brooklyn Girl: Jan. 22, 3rd race, $780. Chickieness: Jan. 21, 3rd race, $1,500. Gamestonks: Jan. 7, 7th race, $1,440; Jan. 13, 7th race, $360. Miss Casey: Jan. 15, 1st race, $1,080; Jan. 27, 2nd race, $765. Noble Prendergast: Jan. 14, 4th race, $258.75. Pride of Payton: Jan. 15, 4th race, $660): Blofeld Syndicate—$6,843.75.

BOURBON COURAGE (Blame the Bourbon: Jan. 8, 8th race, $1,170; Jan. 20, 4th race, $517.50. Bourbon On the Bay: Jan. 20, 5th race, $1,305. Bourbon Wildcat: Jan. 1, 8th race, $870; Jan. 21, 5th race, $1,125. Cocktail Dreaming: Jan. 6, 9th race, $258.75; Jan. 20, 3rd race, $390. Donna's Courage: Jan. 16, 5th race, $270. Hay Diddle Diddle: Jan. 7, 9th race, $435; Jan. 28, 1st race, $270. She'sarollingstone: Jan. 13, 7th race, $2,160. Uncommon Valor: Jan. 16, 6th race, $172.50): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$8,943.75.

BUFFUM (Malibu Beauty: Jan. 21, 5th race, $562.50): Northview for Buffum Syndicate.

CAL NATION (Ournationonparade: Jan. 21, 4th race, $562.50): Cal Nation Syndicate.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Despite Odds: Jan. 20, 2nd race, $172.50. Up Against It: Jan. 8, 7th race, $1,440; Jan. 29, 6th race, $480. Utterly Enchanting: Jan. 6, 5th race, $255; Jan. 27, 2nd race, $255): R. Larry Johnson—$2,602.50.

DIVINING ROD (Baton: Jan. 14, 6th race, $720. Find Faith: Jan. 8, 6th race, $1,980. Flaming East: Jan. 21, 2nd race, $1,080. Liquidator: Jan. 7, 6th race, $1,800. Local Motive: Jan. 16, 7th race, $435. Rustys Gfivefifty: Jan. 14, 6th race, $360. Vodkatini: Jan. 20, 1st race, $1,935. Wonder Water: Jan. 6, 1st race, $202.50): Divining Rod Syndicate—$8,512.50.

DORTMUND (Never Done: Jan. 28, 3rd race, $300): Kaleem S. Shah.

FREEDOM CHILD (Fowl Nation: Jan. 8, 1st race, $375. Mit Mazel: Jan. 1, 4th race, $1,800; Jan. 13, 7th race, $720): Country Life for Freedom Child Syndicate—$2,895.

FRIESAN FIRE (He's On Fire: Jan. 13, 1st race, $1,305. Hot Lookin Royal: Jan. 16, 1st race, $420. Mo Fire: Jan. 16, 9th race, $180. Thencomemorning: Jan. 22, 5th race, $1,125. Willful Desire: Jan. 21, 9th race, $1,305): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$4,335.

GOLDEN LAD (Bali Hai: Jan. 15, 8th race, $1,125. Fartlek: Jan. 27, 9th race, $1,125. I'm Gittin There: Jan. 1, 7th race, $2,430; Jan. 15, 5th race, $720. Ladneedsahandler: Jan. 1, 2nd race, $1,080. Lamarvelous: Jan. 21, 1st race, $1,980. Omo Dada: Jan. 15, 4th race, $330. Oxide: Jan. 6, 7th race, $390; Jan. 22, 2nd race, $990. Quit Quay: Jan. 15, 6th race, $375. Rahmer: Jan. 1, 2nd race, $360; Jan. 21, 2nd race, $360. Wyatt Ridgely: Jan. 20, 4th race, $258.75): Golden Lad Syndicate—$11,523.75.

GREAT NOTION (Brilliant Ice: Jan. 16, 8th race, $720. Brzina: Jan. 13, 3rd race, $1,980; Jan. 22, 1st race, $780. Fille d'Esprit: Jan. 21, 7th race, $4,500. Fuhgeddaboudit: Jan. 1, 7th race, $810; Jan. 22, 7th race, $2,430. Good Story: Jan. 29, 3rd race, $375. Great Go Go: Jan. 13, 4th race, $810. Lost Weekend: Jan. 28, 9th race, $810. My Flicker: Jan. 15, 5th race, $2,160. Tenax: Jan. 20, 9th race, $345): Great Notion Syndicate—$15,720.

HOLY BOSS (Bossyness: Jan. 7, 1st race, $1,305; Jan. 28, 5th race, $258.75. Crossland: Jan. 27, 1st race, $390. Dunder Boss: Jan. 20, 3rd race, $1,170. General J R: Jan. 7, 3rd race, $540. Holy Synchronicity: Jan. 16, 8th race, $2,160. Jardani: Jan. 27, 4th race, $405. R B's the Boss: Jan. 28, 9th race, $405. Vance Scholars: Jan. 14, 8th race, $2,790): Holy Boss Syndicate—$9,423.75.

IMAGINING (Badger Tooth: Jan. 8, 5th race, $360. Citi Creek: Jan. 1, 1st race, $435. Elusive Image: Jan. 13, 1st race, $435. Imagine a Cure: Jan. 14, 2nd race, $1,125. Proper Attire: Jan. 16, 4th race, $1,440. Stardust Ziggy: Jan. 14, 4th race, $1,552.50): Imagining Syndicate—$5,347.50.

IRISH WAR CRY (Feeling Woozy: Jan. 29, 7th race, $2,430. Irish Lace: Jan. 21, 9th race, $217.50): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$2,647.50.

KOBE'S BACK (Trash Talkin Larry: Jan. 14, 1st race, $330): Bonita Farm.

LONG RIVER (Jones Falls: Jan. 7, 3rd race, $1,620): Long River Syndicate.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Arden'sluckytobe: Jan. 27, 1st race, $2,340. Best Choice Baby: Jan. 27, 3rd race, $435. Cynergy's Electra: Jan. 22, 3rd race, $2,340. Fortunata Italia: Jan. 15, 1st race, $360. Lootah: Jan. 20, 5th race, $217.50. Only Child: Jan. 16, 6th race, $1,035; Jan. 27, 6th race, $360): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$7,087.50.

MOSLER (Captain Quint: Jan. 28, 1st race, $1,620. Mose Perfect: Jan. 14, 6th race, $2,160. Moses Water: Jan. 20, 5th race, $435. Need a Marker: Jan. 29, 1st race, $1,170. Response Time: Jan. 7, 8th race, $930. Sapphire Beauty: Jan. 13, 9th race, $187.50; Jan. 29, 8th race, $1,125): Mosler Syndicate—$7,627.50.

NICANOR (Sweet Asta: Jan. 8, 5th race, $180; Jan. 27, 6th race, $1,080): Nicanor Syndicate—$1,260.

NO NEVER NO MORE (Dr. Snyder: Jan. 22, 9th race, $270): Tigertail Ranch.

NOT FOR LOVE (Hot N Spicy Love: Jan. 22, 2nd race, $165. Torch of Truth: Jan. 14, 7th race, $1,800): Not For Love Syndicate—$1,965.

REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: Jan. 29, 4th race, $525): Redeemed Syndicate.

SCIPION (The Last Scip: Jan. 20, 2nd race, $345): Audrey Murray for Scipion Syndicate.

STREET MAGICIAN (Demo Doctor: Jan. 16, 8th race, $360. Mama's Eyes: Jan. 13, 6th race, $330): R. Larry Johnson—$690.

Registration questions?
Membership inquiries?
Member benefits questions?

Call Emily
at the MHBA office
410.252.2100 ext. 129

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **May 2023** -

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Rutgers Equine Science Center's Equine Pasture Management: "A Year-Round Approach"

Robert Mickel, Regional Livestock Agent
Reviewed by Carey Williams, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Equine Management

Introduction

Pasture management is an evolving dynamic system requiring care and supervision year-round. Equine practitioners often expect their pastures to provide areas for exercise, training, and forage production, without providing adequate levels of plant management to obtain these goals and expectations. Pasture management is not a one-shot deal, but should be regarded as a system in constant fluctuation. Equine practitioners need to assess pasture management much as they do horse management, relationship to nutrition, grooming, eventing, breed selection, health care, rest/recuperation, and overall general equine common sense.

Nutrition

Pastures, much like horses, need a balanced diet if they are to attain optimal growth and performance. Unfortunately though, pastures quite often are left to fend for themselves until such time as they either become an eyesore or have little or no stand utility. When meeting their horses' nutritional demands, producers go all out in balancing horses' diets by using prescribed rations and feeds. Reaching the same level of management for the pasture should be a goal of equine practitioners. To achieve the same level for their pastures, growers need to begin by taking a soil test at least every other year, if not every year, to monitor nutritional needs. Nutrition requirements for pH and plant growth are essential if optimal growth and performance are desired. Much like the ration for a horse, a balanced diet for pastures goes very far in assisting in overall performance and forage production. Pastures with an average pH of 6.5 (or a range of 6.0-7.0) will allow for maximum nutrient utilization for optimal pasture growth and production. Fertilize pastures according to the seasons and expected performance demands. Apply fertilizer based upon soil test results to maximize pasture potentials. Applications split throughout the pasture season encourage initial spring growth, regenerative summer growth, and, most important, fall root strengthening and subsequent winter protection.

Grooming

Grooming pastures is another essential criterion of successful pasture management and subsequent plant and forage growth. Once

FOLLOW or LIKE NJBREDS on.

pastures are grazed to adequate levels (3-4 inches), remove horses and then clip or mow, simultaneously drag, and fertilize. The mowing will cut off uneaten vegetation (forages and weeds) and will be extremely beneficial for regenerating new plant growth. This new growth will be more palatable and nutritious for successive pasturing in an applied rotation practice. Dragging pastures with commercial tine or chain drags or even with home-made drag designs, will help break up manure deposits and aerate the sod or thatch cover. Depending on each grower's situation, the rotation of use should be done on a four- to five-week schedule. The size of the pasture and the related stocking needs will deter-mine the rotational schedule in conjunction with weather conditions, nutrient practices, and the pasture quality. Stocking rates will have a tremendous impact on pastures, as will the eventing use of that pasture. One horse per acre should be a common goal for pasturing success in much of New Jersey. When combined with larger equine numbers, intensive grazing of one or more horses per acre can be achieved in an integrated pasture-rotation system. If the pasture is used for
other reasons, i.e., turnout, exercise, and for various eventing/training, the relative success of the pasture will be impeded accordingly.

Seed Variety

Pasture forage species and blend selections should be analyzed, much like matching equine breeds to the task or specific job you want the horse to do. You wouldn't generally pick a standardbred for dressage, so in parallel you would not plant alfalfa in high-traffic exercise paddocks. For general purposes it is best to select a mix of grasses and legumes that provide pasturing needs throughout the growing season.

Cool-season species, such as timothy, perennial ryegrass, bromegrass, bluegrass, reed canary grass, and orchard grass provide early grazing in spring and early summer. They will also provide grazing when cooler temperatures arrive in fall. These grasses perform adequately when managed properly and provide partial pasture during the summer months. Cool-season grasses in our area generally flower or bloom by mid-May and continue into early June. At this time they tend to mature and go to seed, producing coarse stalky forage that horses generally will not eat. Mowing at this time is critical, but generally should be done before the plants reach this stage of maturity.

Warm-season species will continue to grow and bloom during the hotter, drier summer months if properly grazed, fertilized, and clipped. Within this grouping are legumes (clovers, trefoils, and vetches) that mature with the cool-season varieties, but offer continued regrowth during summer and into early fall under proper management.

Rest-Rotation-Recuperation

Pastures, not unlike horses, need rest and recuperation if they are to maximize production goals. Rest for a pasture will reduce the stress from equine traffic and allow the forages to recuperate and establish new growth. Rotational goals should allow plants to reestablish new leaf growth for photosynthesis. Without rest the pasture's regenerative process will not respond well to fertilization and water efficiently. Proper pasture health care, not unlike equine health care, is essential for maximum production. Pastures may also need insect, disease, and/or weed controls based on diagnosis by a specialist. If left untreated, infested pastures will be less productive and possibly may even die out. The higher the stress factor placed upon the pasture, the greater the chance for poor performance and production.

Rutgers Equine Science Center reminds you to check your pastures for poisonous plants

There's hope that spring is right around the corner! Maybe it's wishful thinking, but horses are shedding out their winter coats which means the days are getting longer. Spring will bring fresh green grass along with it. Lurking among these juicy shoots may be some plants that are harmful to your horse. It's never a bad idea to review poisonous plants and check your pasture for them.

Good pasture management is one of your best defenses against those lurking plants. Despite all your best efforts, you might still end up with some unwanted plants in your pasture. Because of this, it can be a good idea to take a walk through your pasture to check for these plants. There are some plants that only grow in certain regions of the world. Because of this you'll want to be familiar with and find resources that are specific to your geographic location to help you in identifying any potentially dangerous plants in your pasture. After doing some browsing through extension publications it looks like there are some plants that are fairly common across a number of geographic locations, especially within the United States.

There's not just one substance that makes a plant poisonous. There are a

number of different chemical compounds that make plants toxic to animals. For an example, a class of compounds called alkaloids are what makes plants in the nightshade family toxic while its glycosides that make wild cherries toxic. The symptoms associated with poisoning vary because there are so many different compounds which could be causing the problem. These symptoms can range all the way from mild irritation or sickness to death. The symptoms and severity of the symptoms are also dependent on how much of the plant an animal consumed and what part of the plant the animal consumed. Some plants concentrate the poisonous compounds in their seeds while other will have higher concentrations in their leaves or stems.

If you suspect your horse has eaten a poisonous plant, you need to contact your veterinarian immediately. They will be able to provide supportive care and recommend the best course of action. You should also save the plant that you think your horse nibbled on as this can be used in helping to diagnose the problem. Don't forget that these poisonous plants can also be found in your horse's hay. If you're not finding anything in the pasture, you may want to take a look at the hay.

The next time you're out walking through the pasture to fetch your horse, take a few minutes to notice the plants growing under your feet. It's also a good idea to routinely walk your pasture with the purpose of checking for poisonous plants. You'll want to be sure you check those fence lines as well! There are plenty of plants that like to lurk along the edges of the pasture and escape your notice.

2023 New Jersey-Bred Stakes at Monmouth Park

RACE DATE	*RACE NAME*	*AGE/SEX*	*DISTANCE*	*SURFACE*
5/20/2023	**$85,000 Spruce Fir H**	**F&M 3+**	**Six Furlongs**	**Dirt**
5/21/2023	**$85,000 John J. Reilly H**	**3+**	**Six Furlongs**	**Dirt**
6/ 4/2023	**$85,000 Smart N Classy H**	**F&M 3+**	**One Mile**	**Dirt**
6/11/2023	**$85,000 Friendly Lover H**	**3+**	**One Mile**	**Dirt**
7/ 8/2023	**$85,000 Jersey Girl H**	**F&M 3+**	**One Mile**	**Turf**
7/ 9/2023	**$85,000 Irish War Cry H**	**3+**	**One Mile**	**Turf**
8/27/2023	**$125,000 Charles Hesse III H**	**3+**	**One Mile and One Sixteenth**	**Dirt**
8/27/2023	**$100,000 New Jersey Breeders' H**	**3+**	**Six Furlongs**	**Dirt**
8/27/2023	**$100,000 Eleven North H**	**F&M 3+**	**Six Furlongs**	**Dirt**

2023 Monmouth Park Stakes Schedule

RACE DATE	*RACE NAME*	*AGE/SEX*	*DISTANCE*	*SURFACE*
5/13/2023	$100,000 Long Branch S	3YO	One Mile and Seventy Yards	Dirt
5/14/2023	$100,000 Serena's Song S	F&M 3+	One Mile and Seventy Yards	Dirt
5/20/2023	$85,000 Spruce Fir H (NJB)	F&M 3+	Six Furlongs	Dirt
5/21/2023	$85,000 John J. Reilly H (NJB)	3+	Six Furlongs	Dirt
5/27/2023	$100,000 Cliffhanger S (Listed)	3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Turf
5/28/2023	$100,000 Miss Liberty S (Listed)	F&M 3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Turf
5/29/2023	$100,000 Mr. Prospector S (Listed)	3+	Six Furlongs	Dirt
6/3/2023	$100,000 Jersey Derby	3YO	One Mile	Turf
6/4/2023	$85,000 Smart N Classy H (NJB)	F&M 3+	One Mile	Dirt
6/10/2023	$100,000 Lady's Secret S (Listed)	F&M 3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Dirt
6/11/2023	$85,000 Friendly Lover H (NJB)	3+	One Mile	Dirt
6/17/2023	$150,000 Pegasus S (Listed)	3YO	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Dirt
6/17/2023	$150,000 G3 Monmouth S	3+	One Mile and One Eigth	Turf
6/17/2023	$150,000 G3 Salvator Mile	3+	One Mile	Dirt
6/17/2023	$150,000 G3 Eatontown S	F&M 3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Turf
6/18/2023	$100,000 Get Serious S	3+	Five and a Half Furlongs	Turf
6/24/2023	$100,000 Goldwood S	F&M 3+	Five and a Half Furlongs	Turf
6/25/2023	$100,000 Tale of the Cat S	3YO	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Turf
7/1/2023	$100,000 Regret S	F&M 3+	Six Furlongs	Dirt
7/2/2023	$100,000 Boiling Springs S	3YO Fillies	One Mile and Seventy Yards	Dirt
7/8/2023	$85,000 Jersey Girl H (NJB)	F&M 3+	One Mile	Turf
7/9/2023	$85,000 Irish War Cry H (NJB)	3+	One Mile	Turf
7/15/2023	$100,000 Blue Sparkler S	3YO Fillies	Five and a Half Furlongs	Turf
7/16/2023	$100,000 My Frenchman S	3YO	Five and a Half Furlongs	Turf
7/22/2023	$1,000,000 G1 Haskell S	3YO	One Mile and One Eighth	Dirt
7/22/2023	$600,000 G1 United Nations S	3+	One Mile and Three Eighths	Turf
7/22/2023	$400,000 G3 Monmouth Cup	3+	One Mile and One Eighth	Dirt
7/22/2023	$500,000 G3 Molly Pitcher S	F&M 3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Dirt
7/22/2023	$300,000 G3 WinStar Matchmaker S	F&M 3+	One Mile and One Eighth	Turf
7/22/2023	$100,000 Wolf Hill S	3+	Five and a Half Furlongs	Turf
7/23/2023	$100,000 Colleen S	2YO Fillies	Five Furlongs	Turf
7/29/2023	$250,000 G3 Monmouth Oaks	3YO Fillies	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Dirt
7/30/2023	$100,000 Tyro S	2YO	Five Furlongs	Turf
8/5/2023	$100,000 Jersey Shore S	3YO	Six Furlongs	Dirt
8/6/2023	$100,000 Incredible Revenge S	F&M 3+	Five and a Half Furlongs	Turf
8/12/2023	$100,000 Select S	3+	Five and a Half Furlongs	Turf
8/13/2023	$100,000 Oceanport S (Listed)	3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Turf
8/19/2023	$250,000 G3 Philip H. Iselin S	3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Dirt
8/20/2023	$200,000 Sorority S	2YO Fillies	One Mile	Dirt
8/26/2023	$200,000 Sapling S (Listed)	2YO	One Mile	Dirt
8/27/2023	$125,000 Charles Hesse III H (NJB)	3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Dirt
8/27/2023	$100,000 New Jersey Breeders' H (NJB)	3+	Six Furlongs	Dirt
8/27/2023	$100,000 Eleven North H (NJB)	F&M 3+	Six Furlongs	Dirt
9/2/2023	$100,000 Violet S (Listed)	F&M 3+	One Mile and One Sixteenth	Turf
9/3/2023	$100,000 Rumson S	3+	Five Furlongs	Dirt
9/4/2023	$100,000 Red Bank S (Listed)	3+	One Mile	Turf
9/9/2023	$100,000 Smoke Glacken S	2YO	Six Furlongs	Dirt
9/10/2023	$100,000 Precious Passion S	3+	One Mile and One Half	Turf

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

May 2023

President's message

So, we didn't have any winners last month, but we had a few place and show finishers. Also, I want to give an honorable mention to North Carolina-bred Hartful Hope for making her racing debut at Turfway Park on March 2. I was able to catch the race on RNT and was impressed by her professionalism. She was first out of the gate and never too far from the lead.

Well done young lady!

Congratulations to our 2022 Champions and their connections for an outstanding year. Good wishes and luck for a victorious 2023. A list of the winners is below.

–Rebecca

Racing Review

Lil Miss Moonlight (City of Light—Sacred Luna, by Malibu Moon) ran second at Tampa Bay Downs March 11 for owner Caroline Cooper in partnership. The 3-year-old bay filly ran on a firm turf going 1 mile, coming in 3¼ lengths behind the winner.

Devra Warrior (Malibu Moon—Ultimata, by Tale of the Cat) ran second at Tampa Bay Downs March 18 for owner Caroline Cooper. The 3-year-old dark bay filly led early on a fast dirt track going 6 furlongs and finished a half-length behind the winner.

Fletcher (Blofeld—Missdixieactivist, by Activist) ran second at Parx Racing March 22 for breeder and owner James Chandley. The 3-year-old dark bay colt ran on a fast dirt track going a mile and 70 yards, battled for the lead down the stretch and was game to the wire.

Deceitful (Hard Spun—Girls Secret, by Giant's Causeway) ran third at Tampa Bay Downs March 22 for owners Caroline Cooper and Rebecca Montaldo. The 3-year-old bay colt ran a mile and 40 yards on a fast dirt track, coming in 2¾ lengths behind the winner and a half length behind the second-place finisher.

2022 NCTA Championship Horses

Category	Horse	Connection
Partnership Horse	Mirth N Merriment	Caroline Cooper - Owner
Two-Year	Cairo Consort	William Thompson, Jr. - Owner
Claiming Male	Cabot	Nancy Shuford - Breeder
Claiming Female	Honorifique	Nancy Shuford - Breeder
Allowance – Male	Flat Out Flying	Elizabeth Muirhead - Breeder
Allowance – Female	Firing Carol	Nancy Shuford - Breeder
Champion Stakes	Bank On Shea	Dan Shea - Owner
Champion Graded Stakes	Cairo Consort	William Thompson, Jr.- Owner

Breeder of the Year – Nancy Shuford

Hitting the Board

February 25 – March 24, 2023

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
11-Mar	Lil Miss Moonlight	Tampa Bay Downs	Owned by Caroline Cooper	2nd
18-Mar	Devra Warrior	Tampa Bay Downs	Owned by Caroline Cooper	2nd
22-Mar	Fletcher	Parx Racing	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	2nd
22-Mar	Deceitful	Tampa Bay Downs	Owned by Caroline Cooper & Rebecca Montaldo	3rd

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

May 2023
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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PA-Bred Angel of Empire is Derby Bound

By Jennifer Starr

Angel of Empire gallops home in the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby.
©Coady Photography

With an eye-popping and jaw-dropping four and a quarter-length win in the Grade 1 Arkansas Derby on Saturday, April 1, Pennsylvania-bred Angel of Empire catapulted onto the Kentucky Derby trail in huge fashion. The Brad Cox-trained colt is by 2017 Arkansas Derby winner Classic Empire out of Armony's Angel, by To Honor and Serve.

The colt went into the Arkansas Derby off his half-length win in the Grade 2 Risen Star Stakes at Fair Grounds on Feb. 18, which was his initial stakes win; he was second in the Smarty Jones at Oaklawn on Jan. 1.

Angel of Empire was foaled at Blackstone Farm, just above Pine Grove. Christian Black of Blackstone Farm describes the beautiful property as about 360 acres of open land. "They are foaled here, and they grow up here," he explained. "Then they go on to the marketplace with commercial breeders. We believe in our horses to be raised outside, so we have a lot of run-in sheds. Sunshine and fresh air, I believe, is a big component to a raise a good racehorse."

Black is still ecstatic over the colt's huge win in the Arkansas Derby, and his reaction to the win was priceless. "I think my wife thought I kind of had a heart attack because I was jumping up and down like I was 20 years old! It was very exciting, obviously, and to a certain degree, emotional.

"It was very surreal, kind of," he added. "It's everything we dream of when we start the process, which is a long process, and this process has to go through so many different hands."

According to the Paulick Report, Angel of Empire was a $70,000 purchase at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale from the Warrendale Sales consignment. "The reason why he was a $70,000 yearling was because he was kind of immature, and you had to take your time with this horse," Christian commented. "You had to find an owner that is willing to do that and put the horse in the hands of a trainer that is willing to do that. It was $70,000, but that was probably because they found a 'diamond in the rough'. Right now, he might be more than a 'diamond in the rough', he might be looking a little more obvious now."

Christian is excited about the colt, and about the prestigious breeding program in

Angel of Empire continued from page 1

Pennsylvania. “Last time we had something like this was Smarty Jones. It’s a big deal. It’s important for the Pennsylvania breed and the Pennsylvania breeders that we can show, in general, to the U.S. market, that we can produce a very nice horse here.”

Getting to that first leg of the Triple Crown is the hope of all breeders and owners, and Christian agrees. “Anybody that buys horses, it doesn’t matter what level they buy them on, they all dream of the Kentucky Derby. The fact that these people [owners of Angel of Empire] are a big supporter of the market, and it’s not the only horse they have in training, and not the only horse they have on the Derby trail, the fact that they are the ones that are bringing him there, that is just a little more rewarding. I’m very happy for them, the owners and the trainers. It’s a big deal.”

Christian is hoping to be at the Kentucky Derby, but he will have to fit it into his busy schedule. “We have to get the next generation on the ground. Here at the farm, I foal all our mares and all our foals, or at least I try to,” he laughed. “We will see how the schedule looks, but if the schedule allows it, I will be at the Derby.”

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association (PHBA), was also brimming with excitement over Angel of Empire, and the rich breeding program in Pennsylvania, consistently turning out champion racehorses.

“Pennsylvania has really moved up, across the nation, as far as the horses are concerned. We have Caravel, who won the Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint last fall, and just won the Grade 2 Shakertown at Keeneland; Unique Bella; Princess of Sylmar; just to name a few. Going back to 2004, Smarty Jones.”

The reaction to Angel of Empire’s win extended well across the Pennsylvania racing and breeding industry, and the buzz is in the air to bring home the Derby trophy. “Christian [Black] wasn’t the only one screaming and banging on table during the Arkansas Derby!” Brian laughed.

Not only is the breeding program in Pennsylvania extensive, but it is also important in that it is structured to give back. “Many of our breeders are ‘Mom and Pop breeders’ where they have one or two horses. So, it’s important for them to look and say, ‘we can do it.’ We structure our breeding program so that breeders can get their investment back as quickly as possible. The breeder awards for Maiden Races are 50 percent, so until you break your maiden, if you finish 1-2-3 in a maiden race, you’re going to get a 50 percent Breeder Award. The owner bonus at Parx is 40 percent and 30 percent at Penn National and Presque Isle Downs, so if you breed the horse and own the horse, you can make a substantial amount of money just by the horse breaking the maiden. Breeders’ awards for PA Sired horses continue to be 40 percent and non-PA Sired 20 percent, because some people breed commercially and they sell it at the sales, so we don’t want to stop them from breeding to any sire that they wish.”

“We probably have, across the board, the best breeding program in the United States as far as bonuses, breeder awards, stakes, and restricted races,” Brian said.

Brian is planning on cheering on Angel of Empire at the Kentucky Derby and is excited about the colt’s chances. “Pennsylvania has had two Derby winners, Lil E. Tee in 1992 and Smarty Jones in 2004, and some other horses went that weren’t favorites or close to being favorites. Angel of Empire, other than Forte, he’s probably going to be right up there, I’d say, in the top two to four horses. We have a really good shot here! I can’t wait!”

A few words from the Executive Coordinator

Congratulations to PA-bred Angel of Empire for his victory in the $1,250,000 Grade 1 Arkansas Derby! The win awarded him 100 qualifying points for the Kentucky Derby, and he will be among the betting favorites on the first Saturday in May. Angel of Empire was bred by Christian Black’s Forgotten Land Investments Inc. and Black Diamond Equine Corp. He sold for $70,000 at the 2021 Keeneland September Yearling Sale and is already a PA-Bred millionaire after only six starts! The state of PA will be cheering Angel of Empire on in his quest for the roses on May 6th! Good luck!

We also wanted to congratulate PA-bred Breeders’ Cup winner Caravel, who kicked off her 2023 campaign with a gritty victory against the boys in the $350,000 Grade 2 Shakertown Stakes at Keeneland. Caravel was bred by Elizabeth M. Merryman, and we can’t wait to see what the rest of the year holds for this special mare!

The 2022 Iroquois Award Winners will be recognized at our Annual Banquet on May 12th at The Inn at Mendenhall in Chadds Ford. Invitations have been sent by email.

The PA-Bred PA-Sired 2yo Stallion Series is expanding this year and will be run in three legs, SIX STAKES, at 5½ furlongs for $100,000, 6½ furlongs for $150,000, and a mile and 70 yards for $200,000. Each leg will consist of a 2yo race and a 2yo filly race. Don’t forget about the $50,000 trainer bonus for the top three point-earning horses. Nominations for the 2023 series for 2yos, if not already nominated, are $1000 for those purchased at a public or private sale by June 30th. You can go to pabred.com under ‘Horses Nominated‘ to see if your horse is on the list. If not, go to ‘Forms’ and print the nomination form.

Broodmares that were not in the state by Dec. 1, 2022, or within 14 days of a public sale (within 60 days of a sale outside the U.S.) must be bred back to a PA-Sire. We ask that you submit all broodmare domicile forms online.

As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Have a great 2023 and Go PA!!

PA-BRED
ANGEL OF EMPIRE
HEADS TO
THE KENTUCKY DERBY

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

BRED BY PENNSYLVANIA'S OWN
CHRISTIAN BLACK
PINE GROVE, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Winner of:
G2 RISEN STAR S. *and*
G1 ARKANSAS DERBY

3RD HIGHEST
 # OF DERBY POINTS

PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

Where will you be the first Saturday in May?

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through February 28, 2023

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	78,552	29,368	107,920	LC Racing LLC	30,192	0	30,192
A1A Racing	63,282	25,246	88,528	Chuck Russo	23,725	5,215	28,940
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	26,123	43,771	69,894	Richard Molineaux	27,888	0	27,888
St. Omer's Farm	68,440	0	68,440	Shirley A. Lojeski	26,963	0	26,963
Richard N. Miller	54,481	9,870	64,351	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	24,630	0	24,630
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	54,775	54,775	David Charlton	24,520	0	24,520
Glenn E. Brok LLC	39,284	12,090	51,374	R H Breeding LLC	22,189	0	22,189
Maria M. Haire	39,766	4,775	44,541	Barbara A. Rickline	19,144	2,364	21,508
Patricia L. Chapman	36,344	3,000	39,344	Michael M. Moore	20,877	0	20,877
Warriors Reward	24,379	13,765	38,144	Michael Raymond Anspach	20,432	0	20,432
William J. Solomon VMD	14,828	16,638	31,466	Pewter Stable	18,601	1,553	20,154
Emilie Bateman	30,912	0	30,912	Susan C. Quick	19,152	0	19,152

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	37	43,771	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	18	5,049
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	62	29,368	Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	7	4,813
Peace and Justice	A1A Racing	43	25,246	Eclipticalspraline	Maria M. Haire	5	4,775
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	73	21,324	Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	6	4,452
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	41	18,434	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	19	3,540
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	29	13,765	Smarty Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	4	3,000
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	6	11,266	El Padrino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	14	2,670
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	18	9,396	Xixixi	Barbara A. Rickline	4	2,364
Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	17	9,264	Trajectory	Richard N. Miller	3	2,352
Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	13	7,518	Rule by Night	Gold Square LLC	4	2,030
Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	11	6,232	Silver Train	Henry R. Nothhaft	4	1,764
Il Villano	Chuck Russo	8	5,215	Winchill	Pewter Stable	5	1,553

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Disco Ebo *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	2	0	39,984	9,996	28,560	78,540
Date Night Kisses *	Weigelia - Tribal Verse	Emilie Bateman	2	0	30,912	7,728	22,080	60,720
Captain Chazz *	Weigelia - Sundays On the Bay	Glenn E. Brok LLC	2	0	19,488	4,872	13,920	38,280
Ninetypercentbrynn *	Weigelia - Amblin Easy	LC Racing LLC	1	0	19,488	4,872	13,920	38,280
Beren *	Weigelia - Silmaril	Susan C. Quick	1	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Castilleja *	Lord Shanakill - La Mure	Norman George Lewis	2	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Diesel *	Peace and Justice - Really a Gem	dba A1A Racing	2	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Empress Deona *	Emperor Tiberius - Deona	Richard N. Miller	2	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Mary Q *	Social Inclusion - Musket Mary	Michael M. Moore	1	0	19,152	4,788	13,680	37,620
Harley's Charly *	Uptowncharlybrown - Harley Go Lightly	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	2	0	22,700	4,540	4,400	31,640
Twisted Ride	Great Notion - Diva's Gold	Kasey K Racing Stable Tuffy LLC	3	0	16,344	0	13,920	30,264
For the Dreamers *	Talent Search - Avery's Smile	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	2	0	14,448	3,612	10,320	28,380
Marion Grace *	Uptowncharlybrown - Angel Food	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	1	0	15,960	3,192	9,120	28,272
Rolls Royce Joyce *	Uptowncharlybrown - Joyce's Angel	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	3	0	14,269	3,567	10,192	28,028
Peach Perfect	Cupid - George's Peach	Andrew Simoff	2	0	15,144	0	12,720	27,864
John Dutton *	Eastwood - Reconsider	Town & Country Farms Manag. LLC	2	0	14,112	3,528	10,080	27,720
Professor Kool *	Weigelia - C J's Little Girl	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	2	0	20,320	4,064	3,040	27,424
Social Success *	Social Inclusion - Schuylkilla	Shirley A. Lojeski	2	0	18,216	4,080	5,040	27,336
Dilly Dilly Philly *	Jump Start - Judiane's Jubilee	David Charlton	2	0	15,280	3,820	7,200	26,300
Flight *	Peace And Justice - Rosedale Arch	A1A Racing	2	0	14,056	2,968	8,480	25,504
Eclipticals Sarah *	Eclipticalspraline - Gentle Charmer	Maria M. Haire	2	0	16,320	4,080	5,040	25,440
Coles Conundrum	Cross Traffic - Villette	Jon A. Marshall	2	0	13,000	0	12,000	25,000
Windsor Gold	Golden Lad - English Mum	Shooting Star Stable	2	0	11,550	0	13,200	24,750
Wilkinson Warrior *	Warrior's Reward - Mama Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	2	0	20,000	4,000	0	24,000

**Denotes PA-sired*

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

May 2023

As we turn the calendar to spring/summer here at the PTHA and Parx Racing, we look forward to exciting times and events ahead. Parx, like every year, will offer LIVE RACING on all three Triple Crown Saturdays. Additionally, we will RACE on FATHER'S DAY, Sunday, June 18th where we will also celebrate our 2023 Owner's Appreciation Day. Mark your calendars now!

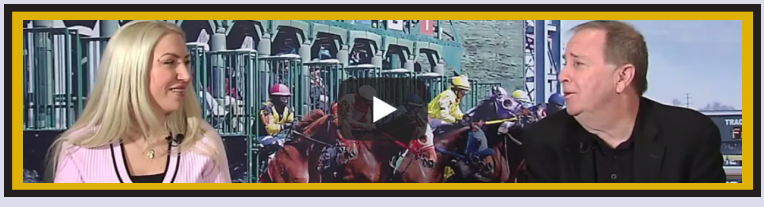
The newly elected PTHA Board of Directors has emphasized a few key items to address as we roll through 2023. PTHA Charities is at the top of the list. Our program not only helps the men and women of our community with education, through the "Granny Fund", but it assists in the everyday lives of our Caregivers on the backstretch. Secondly, the board is focused on creating new events that will allow the general membership to participate in, ie...golf outings, fundraising events, and many more.

In, 2022, Parx ran 74 Two-Year-Old races, the most in a single season in the history of the track. We hope to not only equal last year's successful program, but to top it. Having a solid two-year-old program is not only essential for bringing in a new horse population, but the key to open stakes and sired stakes.

We look forward to seeing you all at our second annual Turning For Home golf outing on May 4th at Bensalem Township Country Club. Turning For Home is PTHA's thoroughbred aftercare program, which has successfully re-homed over 3,500 horses since 2008.

Jeff Matty, Jr.
PTHA Executive Director

PTHA'S Turning For Home
RACEHORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM



Join hosts Dick Jerardi and Dani Gibson for the latest in Thoroughbred news, behind the scenes access, and more, every Saturday at 10 am on PHL-17!

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
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Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

Racing Across the Nation

While South Carolina was light on stakes winning graduates between Feb. 20 and March 20, Randy and Kala Rentz did see three of their former pupils cross the finish line first in stakes races.

Social Success made her racing debut Dec. 21, 2022, finishing fourth at Penn National. Since then, she has won three in a row, including the Main Line Stakes March 6 at Parx Racing. In the Main Line, Social Success led gate to wire, winning by 2½ lengths. This 3-year-old filly by Social Inclusion looks to have a very bright future ahead of her.

Also on March 6, **No Confession** stalked the leader to halfway through the turn in the 6½-furlong Rittenhouse Square Stakes at Parx before taking control and drawing away in the stretch, crossing the finish line 4 lengths clear of the rest. It took this 3-year-old gelding by Into Mischief eight races before breaking his maiden. Since then, he has won three in a row. The light has come on!

On March 18, Randy and Kala Rentz saw one more of their graduates, **Nimitz Class**, prove best in the Harrison E. Johnson Memorial Stakes at Laurel Park. Nimitz Class sat behind the leader for the opening half-mile before taking the lead and flying down the stretch, proving much the best winning by 6 ¼ lengths. This son of Munnings has won both starts this year, each stakes, and eight of 14 lifetime. He has earned $354,480.

Maryland champions have South Carolina connections

Several Maryland-bred divisional champions of 2022 have South Carolina connections. Post Time, the 2022 Maryland-bred Champion 2-Year-Old Male, went through the breaking process with Cary Frommer in Aiken,

The 2022 Maryland-bred Champion 3-Year-Old Male was Joe. He is owned by Stuart Grant's The Elkstone Group. Grant is the owner of the Camden Training Center. Last year, Joe won three races, including two stakes, and was second in another.

Luna Belle was named 2022 Maryland-bred Champion 3-Year-Old Filly. She was broken and trained at Franklin "Goree" Smith's Elloree Training Center before being sent to Maryland for her racing career. In 2022 she won four stakes at Laurel Park. Luna Belle is trained by Goree's brother, Hamilton Smith, who co-owns her with Deborah Green. Luna Belle was also named MTHA Maryland-based Female Dirt Horse of the Year.

Goree Smith also is a co-owner of English Tavern, named MTHA Maryland-based Turf Horse of the Year. Hamilton Smith and Jerry Romans are his partners.

Aiken Trials has many highlights

The 80th Aiken Trials were held Saturday, March 18. The weekend began the day before with Breakfast at the Gallops. This well-attended event gives attendees the opportunity to see horses train and breeze. It is a fundraiser for the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame. This year's guest speaker was Aciaca Clement, a TV host, analyst and reporter for the New York Racing Association.

Five Trials were held. The first, The Coward Trophy, was captured by an unnamed 2-year-old filly by Social Inclusion out of Code Variance. She was saddled by Travis Durr and ridden by his son, Brody.

The second race, The Gaver Trophy, went to Callin My Name, a 2-year-old by Gormley out of Fayreen. He is trained by Jason McCutchen, the son of SCTOBA Vice President Debby McCutchen. Callin My Name was ridden by Lamont Smalls. The race was used as a prep for a race at Keeneland.

Seismic Wave, a son of Tapit out of Conference Call, won The Von Stade Trophy, a race for 3-year-olds and up. Seismic Wave was saddled by Neil Morris and ridden by Charles Bennett.

Sinful Dancer, by War Dancer out of Sensationista, proved best in The City of Aiken Cup, annually the feature race of the day. He is trained by David Figueroa and was ridden by Makaia Paige Carpenter. Sinful Dancer raced in New York before coming to Aiken for the winter. He broke his maiden at Aqueduct Nov. 13 before winning again at Aqueduct Dec. 4.

Say It Loud, by Midnight Storm out of Freedom Come, won the final race of the day, The Iselin Hall of Fame Trophy, race for 3-year-olds and up. Say It Loud's trainer is Peter Pugh and he was ridden by Peter's wife, Caroline.

Spring steeplechase season kicks off in Aiken

The 2023 National Steeplechase Association season began with the running of the Aiken Spring Steeplechase on Saturday, March 25. The day kicked off with a flat training race followed by five races over hurdles. While it rained in the morning, the sun came out and a large enthusiastic crowd of tailgaters turned out.

SCOTBA member Arch Kingsley saddled two winners. Cainudothetwist was a 3-length winner of the flat race. The only mare in the race was ridden by the trainer's daughter, Taylor Kingsley, who had already ridden two winners in point-to-point races this spring. Cainudothetwist is owned by Arch Kingsley. Kingsley also put the tack on High Mounte, who was the best in a Ratings Handicap hurdle race by 10¾ lengths. Owned by Richard Colton, High Mounte was ridden by Graham Watters.

The trainer/rider team of Keri Brion and Parker Hendriks won two races, including the day's feature, The Imperial Cup, with The Insider (Ire). Owned by Hudson River Farms LLC, The Insider led from the start crossing the finish line 3 lengths in front. Earlier in the day, Brion gave Hendriks a leg up on Cross Border, winner of a maiden hurdle event by 4¾ lengths.

Keri Brion was the National Steeplechase Association's leading trainer in money earned in 2023 and Parker Hendriks was the leader in both wins and money earned last year.

Neil Morris, who wintered in Aiken, saddled Seismic Wave, winner of a maiden hurdle by 1¼ lengths. Seismic Wave is owned by William Russell and was ridden to victory by Harrison Bestwick.

Ricky Hendriks, the father of jockey Parker Hendricks, is the trainer of Upland Flats Racing LLC's West Newton, who led the field across the finish line in another Ratings Handicap hurdle. He was also ridden by Harrison Bestwick.

Steeplechase racing will return to Aiken later this year with the closing meet of the NSA season.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Bankers Daughter	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/20/23	Aqueduct	Allowance
Clubman	Aiken - Cary Frommer	02/20/23	Laurel Park	Starter Allowance
Shewillghostu	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/22/23	Turfway Park	Maiden Special Weight
Peach Perfect	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	02/22/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
Fully Connected	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/23/23	Charles Town	Allowance
Dancing Sophia	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/24/23	Aqueduct	Starter Allowance
Response Time	Elloree Tng Ctr	02/24/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Tinseltown Tina	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	02/24/23	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
Cactus	Kirkwood Stables	02/24/23	Oaklawn Park	Starter Allowance
Desert Duke	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/25/23	Fair Grounds	Maiden Special Weight
Breaking Stones	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/25/23	Aqueduct	Allowance
Faccia Bella	Mason Springs	02/25/23	Tampa Bay Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Maestria	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	02/26/23	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Oxide	Aiken - Cary Frommer	02/26/23	Laurel Park	Starter Allowance
Reason Over Riches	Kirkwood Stables	02/26/23	Oaklawn Park	Maiden Special Weight
Wilkinson Warrior	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	02/27/23	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Hyperbolist	Elloree Tng Ctr	02/28/23	Delta Downs	Allowance
Mucho Macho Girl	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/01/23	Fair Grounds	Maiden Special Weight
Dealing Justice	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/02/23	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Jay Jay Dee	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/02/23	Charles Town	Allowance
City Legend	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/03/23	Oaklawn Park	Starter Allowance
Italian Dressing	Elloree Tng Ctr	03/03/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Liquidator	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/03/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Irish Cork	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/03/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Braciole	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/04/23	Aqueduct	Starter Allowance
On the Mark	Elloree Tng Ctr	03/04/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Market Alert	Custom Care - D. Freyer	03/04/23	Aqueduct	Allowance
Sacred Wish	Aiken - Cary Frommer	03/05/23	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Dreaming of Smarty	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/06/23	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
SOCIAL SUCCESS	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/06/23	Parx Racing	Main Line S
NO CONFESSION	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/06/23	Parx Racing	Rittenhouse Square S
Code Duello	Elloree Tng Ctr	03/11/23	Golden Gate	Allowance
Paynter Party	Elloree Tng Ctr	03/12/23	Sam Houston	Starter Allowance
Clubman	Aiken - Cary Frommer	03/12/23	Laurel Park	Starter Allowance
Graywing	Aiken - Legacy Stable	03/13/23	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Kitchen Fire	Custom Care-D. Freyer	03/15/23	Tampa Bay Downs	Starter Allowance
No Easy Answer	Rnetz Farm Tng Ctr	03/16/23	Penn National	Allowance
Big Cheeks	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	03/17/23	Laurel Park	Starter Allowance
Sunshine Jack	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/17/23	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Shackleford County	Elloree Tng Ctr	03/18/23	Laurel Park	Starter Allowance
I'm Gittin There	Elloree Tng Ctr	03/18/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
NIMITZ CLASS	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	03/18/23	Laurel Park	Harrison E. Johnson Memorial S
Majestic Creed	Aiken - Cary Frommer	03/18/23	Parx Racing	Allowance

VIRGINIA

Colonial Downs 2023 Stakes Schedule Announced

A record of more than $5.2 million in stakes purses will be up for grabs at the upcoming 27-day meeting at Colonial Downs which runs from Thursday, July 13 through Saturday, September 9.

The total is buoyed by the relocation of the Grade I Arlington Million, Grade I $500,000 Beverly D. and Grade II $500,000 Secretariat Stakes from their long-time home at Arlington International Racecourse (the Million and Beverly D. were raced at Churchill Downs in 2022). In addition, the Grade III New Kent County Virginia Derby will carry a $500,000 purse, $200,000 more than last year, and its sister race the (Listed) Virginia Oaks, has been kicked up by $50,000 to $250,000.

The Million, Beverly D., and Secretariat will be raced on Saturday, August 12, the traditional weekend for the internationally renowned trio. The Million will be run at 1-1/4 miles and the Beverly D. will be contested at 1-3/16 miles while the one-mile Secretariat leads perfectly into the nine-furlong Virginia Derby four weeks later closing day Saturday, September 9.

It seems only fitting that the Secretariat, named for the Virginia-bred 1973 Triple Crown winner, has now found a home in the Commonwealth as the 50th anniversary of "Big Red's" Triple Crown is celebrated.

The aforementioned Virginia Derby will headline a card with $1.3 million in stakes purses. In addition to the Virginia Derby and Oaks, the closing day program will include the $150,000 Da Hoss Stakes for older horses at 5 ½ furlongs on turf, $150,000 Colonial Cup for older horses at 1-1/2 miles, $125,000 Rosie's Stakes for 2-year-olds sprinting 5 ½ furlongs on turf, and $125,000 Kitten's Joy Stakes for 2-year-olds over a two-turn 1-1/16 miles on the turf.

Capensis captured the 2022 Virginia Derby. The Derby's 20th running this year will feature a $500,000 purse (Coady Photography).

The stakes program kicks off opening weekend with a quartet of turf races for Virginia-bred or -sired older runners on Saturday, July 15: the $125,000 Edward P. Evans at a mile, the $125,000 Brookmeade for fillies and mares at 1-1/16 miles, and the $125,000 Punch Line and $125,000 Tyson Gilpin both at 5 ½ furlongs with the latter of the pair restricted to fillies and mares.

A pair of $150,000 open stakes races – the Van Clief and the Andy Guest – headline the following Saturday, July 22. Both races are carded at 5 ½ furlongs with the Andy Guest restricted to fillies and mares.

The $100,000 Housebuster Overnight Handicap for 3-year-olds at 7 dirt furlongs will be showcased on the July 29 card.

Two-year-olds are featured on Saturday, August 5 with the $150,000 Keswick for fillies going five furlongs on the dirt and the $150,000 Hickory Tree Stakes for Virginia-bred juveniles also at five furlongs.

The Saturday, September 2 card is highlighted by a quintet of stakes races all on turf: the $150,000 Jamestown Stakes is for Virginia-bred or -sired 2-year-olds going 5 ½ furlongs while the remaining four events are for Virginia-restricted horses – the $150,000 Meadow Stable for older horses at 5 ½ furlongs and its female companion race the $150,000 Camptown, and the $150,000 Bert Allen and its filly and mare counterpart the $150,000 Nellie Mae Cox, both at 1-1/16 miles.

Colonial Stall Applications Due By May 3 First Condition Book Available Online

The annual controlled burn of Colonial's turf course started on the back side, and rounded the far turn before coming down the stretch (Patriot Productions photo)

Stall applications for the Colonial Downs summer season are available now at colonialdowns.com – and virginiahorseracing.com – and must be turned in on or before May 3. The first of two Condition Books is also available online at the same sites. The New Kent barn area will open June 19 and the track will be available for training beginning June 22. Purses, which averaged $622,000 per day last year, will safely be over $650,000 this year said Frank Petramalo, VAHBPA Executive Director. "With the addition of the Arlington Million Day stakes, total purse money for the meet will be in the $19 million range," he said.

The Secretariat Turf Course was set ablaze March 28 in an annual controlled burn that helps prepare and nurture the country's widest grass racing surface for the upcoming meet. The burn takes dead cover off the turf in a rapid manner and allows it to grow back more plush, green and safe within weeks. The controlled burn method is preferred to cutting the grass since the process is quicker and more efficient.

Colonial's turf irrigation system also underwent a complete renovation and material has been added to the 1 ¼ miles dirt oval.

"We look forward to working with a new partner (Churchill Downs Incorporated) in the race meet that brings a wealth of experience of putting on great racing events," added Petramalo.

NSA Sanctioned Spring Steeplechase Meets Set At Three Different Venues

With spring in full swing, blooms aplenty and grass colored green again, it's time for Virginia's three National Steeplechase Association sanctioned events to take center stage. The Middleburg Spring Races will be contested April 22 at Glenwood Park followed by the Foxfield Races in Charlottesville April 29 and the Virginia Gold Cup on May 6 at Great Meadow in The Plains -- which also features Kentucky Derby simulcast wagering.

The Point-to-Point (PTP) season, which began March 4, is in the homestretch with two events remaining --- the Loudoun Hunt PTP at Morven Park in Leesburg on April 23 and the Middleburg Hunt PTP at Glenwood Park on April 30. Highlight of early spring action took place at the Old Dominion Hounds PTP April 8 in Washington, Virginia when three NSA sanctioned races took place at the Ben Venue Farm for the first time ever with purses totaling $65,000.

Looking ahead, Colonial Downs will host two jump races every Friday this summer from July 14 - September 8 and for the first time since reopening in 2019, they will be part of the pari-mutuel cards. The steeplechase races will be programmed as races one and two on Fridays. A pair of $75,000 stakes highlights the '23 summer campaign. The Randolph D. Rouse Filly/Mare Hurdle Stakes for 4 & up is set for August 11 while the inaugural Life's Illusion Stakes for Fillies/Mares ages 3 & up is part of closing weekend festivities, on September 8.

Andi'Amu and rider Freddie Procter en route to winning the 2022 Virginia Gold Cup in soggy conditions (Douglas Lees photo)

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West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter May 2023

WVTBA Awards 2022

By Jeff Gilleas

The celebratory atmosphere in the Hollywood Casino third floor banquet hall was noticeably toned down this year, as the passing of West Virginia racing and breeding icons – Dennis Bybee, James W. Casey, John A. Casey, Randy Funkhouser, and John McKee – were on the minds and lips of every person that attended the annual prestigious event.

Jefferson County, the Horse Capital of the State, where many elite Thoroughbreds are bred, raised, train and race, now confronts a transformation of unprecedented magnitude. Individuals who've watched over and guided an industry that employs hundreds, forthwith pass the torch of responsibility.

In a sport that loves champions, the West Virginia Breeders Awards are our most definitive equine and human tribute, acknowledging the passion of our participants and accomplishments of the horse. Fittingly, this year's star was Beau Ridge Farm, residence to owner Cynthia and dearly departed John McKee, their stallion Fiber Sonde and progeny.

Homebreds drive the success of any breeding program. With over 200 horsemen and luminaries filling the luxurious ballroom, the present and future were proudly on display.

CHAMPION 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY: MARZ EXPRESS

The bay filly by West Coast, out of Mantekilla, by Lemon Drop Kid, could have been haltered for $25,000 at Colonial Downs in her second career attempt. Fortunately, for owner Ultra Championship Racing, trainer Anthony Farrior and breeder James Miller, the trio remained cohesive guardians to witness her late season heroics.

Wins in the West Virginia Triple Crown Nutrition Breeders Classic and Eleanor Casey Memorial solidified her number one divisional ranking.

Second Place: Lightnin Runner
Third Place: Music Lass

CHAMPION 2-YEAR-OLD MALE: HONEYQUIST

The decision to go big at auction has paid nifty dividends for owners Mammas Boys Thoroughbred Racing Group, Ultra Championship Racing and James Miller. In four starts as a juvenile, the son of Nyquist out of Honey Chile, by Invisible Ink, accounted for two wins and two seconds, while earning $75,073.

Trained by Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races 2022 leading conditioner Anthony Farrior, the clear-cut champion was bred by CTHBPA president James Miller.

Second Place: Juba's Notion
Third Place: Paymengold

CHAMPION 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY: SILKY SERENA

"A good man doesn't love a million women, he loves one women in a million ways."

Cynthia McKee was with her husband John when he passed, and spent the prior 45 years as his devoted life partner. John's bigger than life persona often overshadowed Cyndy's presence, but those nearest the couple realized she was his closest confidant and trusted companion.

Silky Serena, a daughter of Fiber Sonde out of Safe at First, by Honour and Glory, was never worse than third in 2022, winning the Its Binn Too Long, Fancy Buckles and Blue and Gold Stakes.

Owned and bred by Cyndy, the ultra-consistent competitor was trained by John McKee.

Second Place: Hessica
Third Place: The Sky is Falling

CHAMPION 3-YEAR-OLD MALE: FREE SAILIN

The son of Freedom Child and Kela's Pride, by Kela, has a win or nothing mentality, evidenced by his record of 14 starts with eight firsts, zero seconds and zero thirds.

Owned and trained by Jason DaCosta, the skilled sophomore took home first place money in the Robert G. Leavitt Memorial and West Virginia Lottery Breeders Classics.

Jim Miller (second from left), along with members of Mammas Boys Thoroughbred Racing Group and Ultra Championship Racing, accept the champion 2-year-old male award for Honeyquist.

Judy Graham presents Cyndy McKee with the Stallion of the Year award for Fiber Sonde.

Cyndy McKee makes the presentation for Horse of the Year Muad'dib.

Bred by Susan Wantz, there was a high level of suspense in this category, until Free Sailin vanquished multiple Horse of the Year Muad'dib in a robust December allowance melee.

Second Place: Coastal Mission
Third Place: Jungle Beast

CHAMPION OLDER FILLY/MARE: ALPINE MOON

This daughter of Swiss Yodeler out of Splendiferous Moon, by Malibu Moon, received top honors in her class, affirming the relationship between individual and team commitment. Though Russell Davis is officially listed as trainer, his wife Yvonne and son Rusty are an integral part of this family's business.

Owned by Bearowitz LLC, the battle tested veteran was bred by Heinz Steinmann. She won or placed in 10 of 11 starts during her 6-year-old campaign while earning $111,220.

Second Place: Navy Sword
Third Place: Stowe Angel

CHAMPION OLDER MALE: MUAD'DIB

His second place effort in the $1-million Charles Town Classic-G2, where he chased the likes of Art Collector, would have been enough to confirm legendary status upon the son of Fiber Sonde and Holy Pow Wow (by Indian Charlie), but back-to-back wins (2021-2022) in the West Virginia Breeders Classic clearly sealed the deal.

Owned by David Raim, who is highly invested in the state's breeding/racing industry, and trained by Jeff Runco, Muad'dib is the symbol of dominance in recent years. He was bred by John McKee.

Second Place: Penguin Power
Third Place: Social Chic

CHAMPION FEMALE SPRINTER: SILKY SERENA

Described as gray or roan, the compact Fiber Sonde filly used her early speed, and strength of spirit, to discourage her opponents. When making the pace, you always have a target on your back, and the McKees' 3-year-old homebred epitomized her kinsfolk's brawling tradition of fearlessness. She earned two awards for her 2022 season.

Second Place: Full Moon Lover
Third Place: Alpine Moon

CHAMPION MALE SPRINTER: PENGUIN POWER

Age may be a relative concept, and while others are transitioning to second careers, Penguin Power has morphed into one of our senior racing legends.

At age 7, the son of Fiber Sonde out of Aye Robbin, by Robb, painted an ever-evolving picture of the athlete who defies time. Victories in the Last Enchantment Overnight Stakes and West Virginia Dash for Cash thrust the title of champion male sprinter upon owner David Raim and trainer Jeff Runco.

With earnings approaching $500,000, Penguin Power was bred by John McKee.

Second Place: Golden Key
Third Place: Hypothesis

HORSE OF THE YEAR: MUAD'DIB

Every now and then, the exploits of a special racehorse capture the imagination and admiration of the public. Such was Muad'dib, owned by David Raim, trained by Jeff Runco and bred by John McKee.

BROODMARE OF THE YEAR: HOLY POW WOW

Owner: John McKee

SIRE OF THE YEAR: FIBER SONDE

Owner: John McKee

BREEDER OF THE YEAR: JOHN AND CYNTHIA MCKEE

◆

Breeders James W. Casey and Randy Funkhouser were posthumously honored with the newly created Sam Huff Award for their contributions to horse racing in West Virginia. The accolade was presented by Carol Holden.

◆

The emotion filled evening answered many current questions, and left one writer accessing the seismic impact of our losses, while speculating how bright the future might have been.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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Chasing

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The ties that bind

Steeplechase has long enjoyed a natural kinship with eventing

By Betsy Burke Parker

Olympic medalist and steeplechase jockey **Kevin Freeman** says he had the best of both worlds he occupied simultaneously in the 1960s and '70s, explaining that his heart belonged at once to both eventing and jump racing.

"But I loved steeplechase best of all."

Freeman says that, at surface level, the two bear little resemblance. But dig a little deeper, and there's a lot the same, with plenty of cross-pollination between the two.

"Including me," Freeman agrees with a chuckle.

"The common denominator among event riders and race riders comes down to their attitude to riding down to big fences," says Freeman, now 83. He was on the silver-medal U.S. Olympic three-day event squads in 1972 and 1976, and he was third in the 1971 Maryland Hunt Cup. "You had to love the thrill and challenge of it – to be good at either sport."

Another former jockey-turned-eventer, Danny Warrington agrees with Freeman's assessment. "To go from one to the other, though," Warrington maintains, "you've gotta change your 'eye' from running down to a hurdle to setting up for a 'question.'

"Those jump trainers teach you 'chipping in is a sin.' You won't win too many races that way."

For all of his success of three-day eventing, three-time Olympic team silver medalist Kevin Freeman still calls steeplechasing "the most thrilling thing I've ever done on a horse."

He's long retired from the saddle though he stays involved in horses, still teaching a few lessons near his home in Oregon. "There's nothing more exciting than riding down to a fence with horses on either side of you trying to be the first to the finish line."

Kevin Freeman aboard #5 Morning Mac in the 1971 Maryland Hunt Cup - they finished 3rd *©Douglas Lees*

The late Jimmy Wofford, who died Feb. 2, had praised Kevin Freeman as "one of the fastest and smoothest riders" American eventing ever produced.

Freeman was asked to pen the definitive comparison of jump race riding and upper level eventing in author Bill Steinkraus's 1976 volume, the "U.S. Equestrian Team Book of Riding."

He was born in Portland, Oregon, growing up on a farm in nearby Molalla. He'd learned to love horses and riding when he was young, starting the way many young boys start in equestrian.

"I discovered that the riding academy my sister rode at had a lot of attractive young ladies," Freeman says with a chuckle at the memory. "That's why I started."

His equestrian education started on the show circuit, competing in hunters and equitation on the west coast, then east coast. He played polo while studying agricultural engineering at Cornell.

Freeman pursued a grad degree at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Freeman's short steeplechase career had him winning over hurdles and over timber, his biggest win coming in the 1968 Iroquois with Bill Rochester's Appollon. He won over the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup course with Jill Slater's Stutter Start, and finished third in the 1971 Maryland Hunt Cup with Morning Mac, behind timber legends Landing Party and Haffaday.

In his other world, Freeman was on three Olympic silver medal three-day event squads – 1964, 1968 and 1972.

Freeman was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 1991 and into the U.S. Eventing Association Hall of Fame in 2009.

He's happy to reminisce about the good old days straddling the steeplechase and eventing worlds. There are comparisons, but there are distinct differences.

"For all their similarities, the two sports really are different," Freeman says. "Eventing is technically a more difficult jumping sequence than stseeplechase, but you're racing against the clock, not against other horses.

"I bet Morning Mac would have made a good show hunter – he moved real well, but (Iroquois winner) Appollon is the one I bet would have been a good event horse if he'd gotten that chance. Stutter Start? He'd sometimes hang a leg. I don't believe I'd

want to ride him over a solid course (of cross-country event fences.)"

Danny Warrington grew up grew up with a foot in each world - the flat track and eventing, with 'chasing in the mix, near Fair Hill, Maryland riding with the Unicorn Pony Club and Lana duPont Wright. He started foxhunting "on the line with my father" at age 5 with the Lewisville Hunt.

Warrington says "tolerated dressage to be allowed to ride" the elementary level cross-country courses of his youth.

He traded it for the racetrack at 14, working on the Delaware Park backstretch for Gene Weymouth, later riding over jumps for Hall of Famers Jonathan Sheppard, Janet Elliot and more.

He retired from racing in 1997 following the death of his wife, Amanda Pirie Warrington, from a fall in the advanced division at the September 20 Fair Hill horse trials.

"I pretty much checked out of everything," Warrington says. "Didn't touch a horse for five years." Warrington focused his energies on obtaining his Coast Guard captain's license, teaching scuba diving, skiing and fishing.

One day, predictably, horses came back in his life. A friend invited him to take a ride.

"One jump and it all came back."

Warrington mounted a brief steeplechase comeback, riding a few races in 2002 and 2003, but he'd gained newfound appreciation for the importance of dressage as fundamental to any horse's education, and he pursued three-day eventing. Warrington has competed to the four-star level and has trained several horses to the championship level.

"I call myself the accidental eventer," Warrington says. "I've gotten a lot of event horses that started out on the racetrack or came from the jump race world. Somebody would call me with a 'chaser they wanted to sell, saying 'it's a little too careful' to make it running over jumps.

"But that's just the type you want. Careful.

"I still remember something (Hall of Fame trainer) Burley Cocks said when I asked him how he taught all those horses to brush through the hurdles. He told me, 'you go 'til you go fast enough that they make a mistake.'

"(Steeplechase national fence) hurdles are forgiving – the faster you jump the more you win. Event fences not so much. You want a horse that's a little careful. Bold, but careful."

The 2021 Maryland 5 Star had a "timber" fence combination on the cross country course, a nod to the steeplechase history of the site. *©TGSF*

Same with riders, Warrington maintains. "What (riding steeplechase races) gave me was the seat and the balance to let a horse find his way out of trouble.

He had to retrain his eye, though, and change his mindset.

"I remember one day schooling at Bruce Davidson's. He'd set up an oxer, four strides to another oxer. I'd jump in, every time, and go down the line in three.

"Every time.

"Bruce pretty much had to grab me by my bootstrings (to make me) learn not to leave out that stride.

"You change your eye. In jump racing, 'when in doubt, leave it out.' Steeplechase trainers teach you 'chipping in is a sin.'

"But the upper level event horses, you come around a blind corner to an offset angle down a steep hill, you've gotta be able to adjust your stride, like an accordion.

"You want the horse to be thinking, to wait for the stride to come to you."

Warrington and wife Kelli created the LandSafe training method to teach riders – it's aimed at event riders but the system works for any discipline, including racing – to fall, a tuck and roll movement designed to push the rider away from a rotational fall.

Jennie Brannigan began working with steeplechase owners, thoroughbred breeders and longtime executive-level eventing supporters Tim and Nina Gardner while she was a young rider. Brannigan won team and individual gold in the 2008 North American Young Riders Championship, then worked for Olympic champion Phillip Dutton at his True Prospect, partnering with Dutton on many Gardner homebreds and young stock at their Welcome Here Farm in West Grove, Pennsylvania.

She campaigned two-time horse of the year, Cambalda, and more recently notched a big 4* win at Bromont in June with three-generation Gardner homebred, Twilightslastgleam.

Brannigan won over timber at the Brandywine point-to-point in 2017 with Joshua G. for owner Armata Stable and trainer Kathy Neilson. Joshua G. and Brannigan fell at the sixth while going strongly in the 2017 Maryland Hunt Cup.

She grew up near Chicago – nowhere near any steeplechasing, but Brannigan once said in an interview that "if I had known what this was when I was younger, I'd probably have become a jump jockey not an event rider. People have said the time I've spent riding racehorses has helped me. I think I've gotten a lot better.

"I've ridden a lot of (speed work for flat trainer Michael Matz and others), and feel very comfortable at speed now.

Third fence at the 2017 Maryland Hunt Cup. Brannigan and Joshua G are on the far right. *©Douglas Lees*

"It's cool to be part of (steeplechasing), historically. The fact that Bruce Davidson and Mike Plumb did it back in the day? That's something that appealed to me. So many kids now have been brought up to …. perform in an arena. Riding over big timber fences in a group is very different from that."

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— Looking Back —

75 years ago

■ The spring cross-country racing season had more entries, and more promising young riders, than had been the case for years. And it culminated with a disqualification in the Maryland Hunt Cup, the third in 52 runnings, after Tiger Bennett sent Henry Cadwalader's mare Carolina over the eighth fence (instead of the 18th). Victory went to 14-year-old Peterski, piloted by D. Michael "Mikey" Smithwick, who was 6 lengths behind Carolina at the wire. It took 10 minutes to review the results, and due to a committee ruling barring p. a. systems, most observers didn't learn of the disqualification until reading their Sunday morning papers.

To date there have been four Hunt Cup disqualifications, the others being The Squire (1897) and Oracle II (1928), each for cutting a flag, and Imperial Way (2015) after losing a weight pad at the 19th fence. Bennett was riding in his second of nine Hunt Cups, and would go on to finish second or third four times, but never win. Years later, he paraphrased Tennyson in a speech: "Better to have won and lost, than never to have won at all." For Smithwick, it was his first of a record six wins.

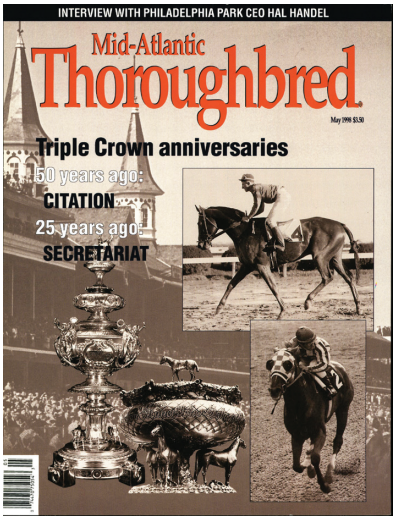
■ Good Turn came out of a seven-year retirement to capture the Dade County Handicap at Tropical Park at age 10. The son of Ariel, bred by Alfred G. Vanderbilt, had won stakes at 2 and 3.

Good Turn finished in the top three in 10 of 15 starts at 2 for Vanderbilt, including a victory in the Sanford and a third, behind Whirlaway, in the Saratoga Special Stakes at Saratoga, and added the San Vicente at Santa Anita the next February. After a fourth in Bowie's Rowe Memorial that April, he wasn't seen again in the gate until March 1948 at Sunshine Park in Florida for owner Mrs. O.H. Marshall. An explanation of those seven years can't be found. He raced until age 14, and made 30 starts following his comeback.

■ A chance observation referring to the New York racing season of 1905 read by Pimlico's Director of Public Relations David F. Woods led to a search of the *Goodwin's Guides* and *Racing Forms* of the period, with the discovery that the Preakness was run in New York at Gravesend from 1894 through 1908. The Dwyer Brothers, who operated Gravesend, revived the stakes which had last been run at Pimlico in 1889.

■ Calumet Farm's 3-year-old Citation made two starts at Havre de Grace in April. In the first he was beaten by Helen L. Sagner's Saggy in the mud in the Chesapeake Trial, but came back to defeat Saggy and others in the Chesapeake.

That was Citation's only loss from September 1947 to January 1950, a string of 24 races.



25 years ago

■ *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* editor and racing historian Timothy Capps provided a retrospective of the 50th and 25th Triple Crowns anniversaries of Citation (1948) and Secretariat (1973). Included were comparisons of the two greats by Hall of Fame trainer MacKenzie Miller; former general manager of Pimlico, Chick Lang; former editor of *The Blood Horse*, Kent Hollingsworth; and *Daily Racing Form* columnist Joe Hirsch. Capps summed it up with what still reigns true – Citation and Secretariat, like Man o' War before them, defined the standard of greatness for every generation of Thoroughbreds to follow.

■ The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association was ready to host its 19th annual Iroquois Awards Banquet honoring the state's leading breeders of 1997, as well as celebrate its 50th anniversary.

"We want to make the evening special," said Dr. William J. Solomon, whose second one-year term as PHBA president was drawing to a close. "Breeding horses is not for the faint-hearted and, as a result, the huge turnover of participants over the years has led to almost an entirely new cast of characters now than were involved 20 to 25 years ago."

■ The first Virginia Derby, run at 1¼ miles on the turf, was to be the centerpiece of the Colonial Downs' 1998 meet. To be held the first weekend of October, with the exact date depending on television scheduling, the purse value – between $200,000 and $500,000 – was to be determined by the amount of sponsor partnerships, as well as discussions with the Virginia Thoroughbred Association and Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

■ Two prominent Maryland horsemen, John A. "Jack" Boniface and Edgar Allen Murray, were remembered after their deaths in March. Boniface was the former secretary of the Maryland/Delaware/West Virginia division of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. Murray was a lifelong horseman and patriarch of a family active in all facets of Maryland Thoroughbred racing.

50 years ago

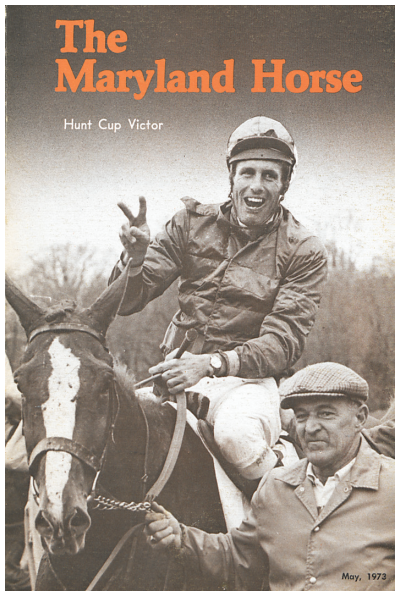
■ "Oh How the Pressure Grew!" for trainer Lucien Laurin as the 60-year-old Canadian was going for his second Kentucky Derby in a row "with the chestnut wonder [perhaps] horse, Secretariat," reported Snowden Carter. Meadow Stud's record-breaking syndicated ($6.08 million) Virginia-bred colt ran poorly to finish third in his final prep, the Wood Memorial, eliciting questions and comments. "Bold Rulers can't win at a mile and a quarter; can they? Secretariat might have reached his peak too soon; mightn't he? Horses built like this radiantly powerful racing machine are actually sprinters; aren't they? If he gets beaten badly in the Derby, it would be better for the shareholders to confine him to mile and a sixteenth races; wouldn't it? To question after question, Laurin stood his ground; never losing his cool, never showing by voice or expression the jabbing pains that probing questions can bring to a man's stomach."

Secretariat silenced the critics when sweeping home over Sham in a track record 1:59⅘. It was the second Derby in a row for his connections, following that of Kentucky-bred Riva Ridge.

■ After three days of rain, the going was deep for the 77th Maryland Hunt Cup. This worked to the advantage of Nancy Hannum's Morning Mac. "Everything couldn't have worked out better for Morning Mac," said Buzz Hannum after winning the race for the second time aboard his mother's hunter. "The going took the speed out of the race and put a premium on jumping ability. Morning Mac was the only one whose jumping held up." Only three of the seven starters finished, and Morning Mac and second-place Eastmac were sons of legendary Hunt Cup runner Cormac.

■ Nancy Boyce had a personal connection when writing of My Lady's Manor winner Keelboat. Owned and ridden by H. Turney McKnight, the 6-year-old, 17-hand bay gelding by *River War was bred by Boyce and sold by her husband Gittings as a lightly raced 3-year-old.

"Could any parent tell an unbiased story about how his son hit a home run with the bases loaded or made the winning touchdown in a football game? Well, horse breeders feel this same sense of pride when one of their foals makes good, even though they had no part in bringing about such success," wrote Boyce.



R.P.S. "Buzz" Hannum on Morning Mac heads to the winner's circle after his second Maryland Hunt win aboard his mother's foxhunter.

10 years ago

■ Thoroughbred racing in Maryland was looking up with bigger purses, increased breed incentives and a 10-year cooperative agreement between horsemen and the Maryland Jockey Club. Tom Chuckas, president and chief operating officer of the Maryland Jockey Club which owns Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, responded: "With the positive relationships that are going on, the ball is truly in [racing's] court. There's a plan in place that will allow all of us to prosper, as long as we collectively do the right thing. It's pretty simple; I don't want to say it's easy. What we do might be difficult, but it can be done."

■ Jockey Tony Black capped a long and successful career with his 5,200th win in March at age 61. The Haddon Township, N.J., native won his first race aboard longshot Stand by Me at Liberty Bell Park in 1970 – his final ride was on Smart Tori for trainer Richard Vega and owner Anthony Nicholas Black (the jockey's son).

The all-time leading rider at Parx (formerly Philadelphia Park and Keystone), Black had purse earnings of more than $63.1 million, was the regular rider of Eclipse Award winner My Juliet and rode in the Kentucky Derby twice. The day after his "retirement" he was back in the saddle exercising horses at Parx on a rainy, misty morning.

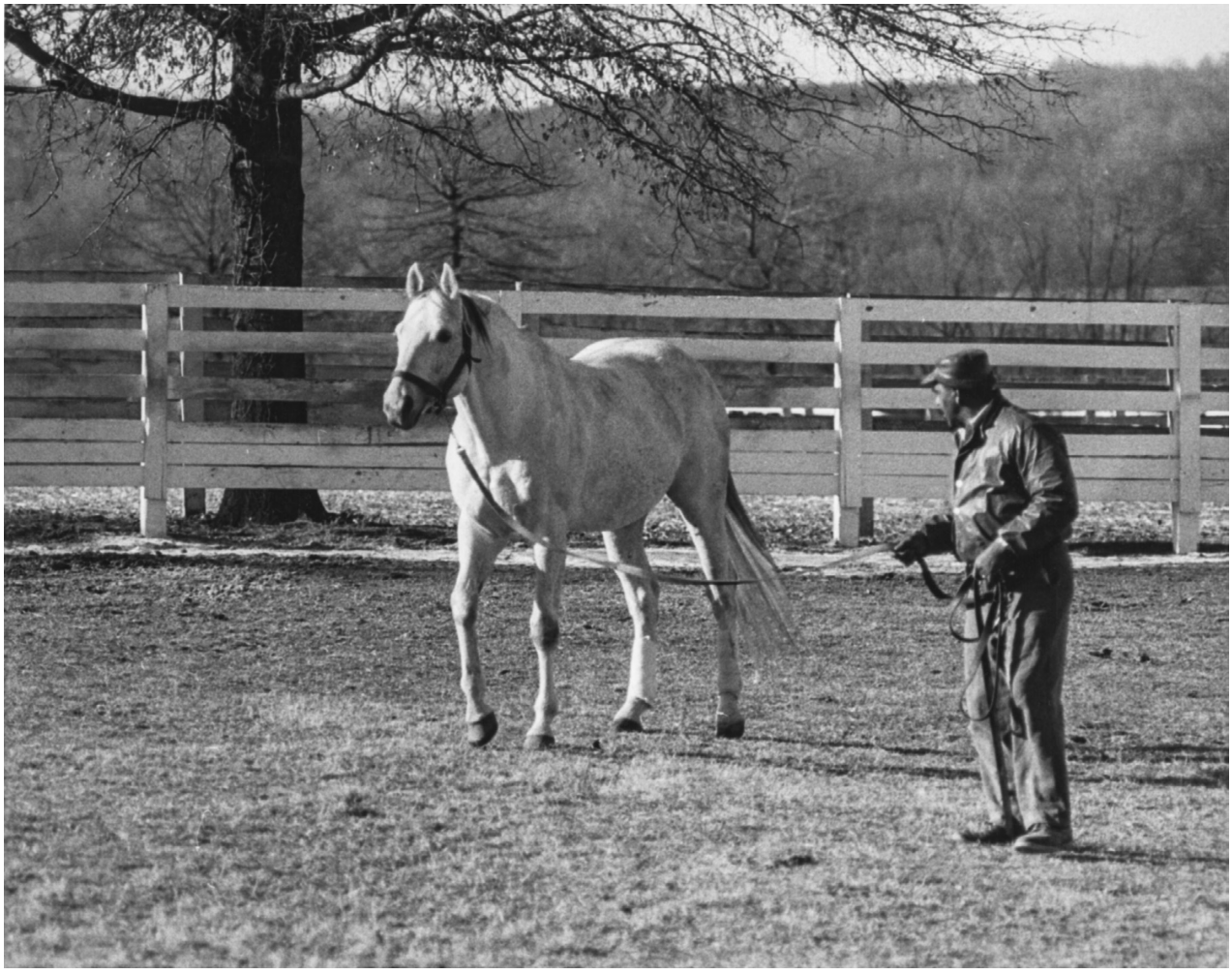
"The reality finally set in," he said. "It's a good thing it was raining because the rain camouflaged the tears that came down my face."

The retirement was short-lived as Black returned in September and won with his first mount. With a small number of rides over the next few years, he won 11 more times before hanging up the tack in October 2019, a little over a month after his 68th birthday.

■ Fair Hill-based Animal Kingdom, sent by trainer Graham Motion halfway around the globe, captured the world's richest race, the $10 million Dubai World Cup-G1 at Meydan Racecourse, padding a resume that included a Kentucky Derby-G1 win.

■ Sagamore Farm's homebred filly Walkwithapurpose improved to 5-for-5 at Laurel, and recorded her third stakes win in a row, with a runaway score in the Caesar's Wish. "At this point she's a multiple stakes winner and I don't think she really owes us anything anymore," said Sagamore general manager Tom Mullikin. "Going forward, hopefully, she'll put the icing on the cake."

The daughter of Candy Ride (Arg) would make one more start a month later, finishing third in Aqueduct's Gazelle-G2 behind Close Hatches and Princess of Sylmar, before sidelined by injury which resulted in her retirement. She was named Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old filly, recorded five wins and two thirds in seven career starts, and became a stakes producer for Sagamore.

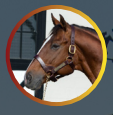


The Gray Ghost

Bred in Kentucky, but a Marylander through and through, Native Dancer soaked up a little sun with stud groom Joe Hall at Sagamore Farm in Glyndon in 1966. Bred and owned by Alfred Vanderbilt, Native Dancer won the Preakness Stakes in 1953, lost just once (by a head in the Kentucky Derby) in 22 starts over three seasons and was one of the most celebrated racehorses in history. Retired to Sagamore, the son of 1945 Preakness winner Polynesian and the Maryland-bred Discovery mare Geisha became one of the most influential sires of the 20th century.

Peter Winants was on staff at *The Maryland Horse* during the 1960s, writing and taking photographs for the magazine before heading to Virginia where he headed up *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine and later the National Sporting Library. Before his death in 2009, he gifted his prints on file at the MHBA, which have become part of the Maryland Horse Library as The Winants Collection.

2023 STALLION ROSTER



Eclipticalspraline

Ecliptical - Ms. Mostly, by Copelan

» **Multiple Wnr at GP; by a Sire of GSHs and o/o GSW**

$1,500 LF

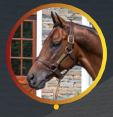
Engage

Into Mischief - Nefertiti, by Speightstown

» **Only GSW by INTO MISCHIEF in Region, $500,000 2YO**

$5,000 LF

FIRST FOALS ARRIVE THIS YEAR



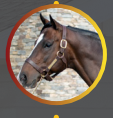
Galawi (IRE)

Dubawi (IRE) - Galikova (FR), by Galileo (IRE)

» **By Top Int'l Sire DUBAWI o/o G1SW 1/2 to GOLDIKOVA**

$2,000 LF

FIRST FOALS ARRIVE THIS YEAR



Golden Lad

Medaglia d'Oro - Broadway Gold, by Seeking the Gold

» **3rd Leading MD Sire in 2022 with $3+ Million in Earnings**

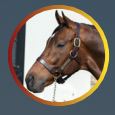
$5,000 LF

Great Notion

Elusive Quality - Evening Primrose, by Dayjur

» **#1 Leading MD Sire Last 5 Years; $85,000+ AE/Runner**

$7,500 LF

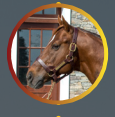


Hoppertunity

Any Given Saturday - Refugee, by Unaccounted For

» **#1 1st-Crop Mid-Atl/NE Sire in 2022 by Wnrs & Earnings**

$5,000 LF

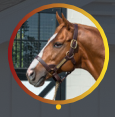


Irish War Cry

Curlin - Irish Sovereign, by Polish Numbers

» **#2nd MD Freshman Sire in 2022; Classic-Placed by CURLIN**

$4,500 LF

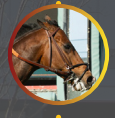


Madefromlucky

Lookin At Lucky - Home From Oz, by Pulpit

» **Peter Pan-G2 Wnr by a Sire of Champions o/o Sister to TAPIT**

$1,500 LF

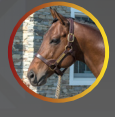


True Valour (IRE) *NEW FOR 2023*

Kodiac (GB) - Sutton Veny (IRE) , by Acclamation (GB)

» **Multiple GSW by 5X Champion European Sire of 2YOs**

$3,000 LF



Uncle Lino

Uncle Mo - Haysee, by Orientate

» **G1 Son of UNCLE MO; #2 2022 MD Sire & #1 3rd-Crop Sire**

$4,000 LF

Northview STALLION STATION

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Wishing Virginia-Raised
FORTE and his connections
the best of luck in
The Kentucky Derby

Remembering the great
Virginia-Bred
SECRETARIAT
on the 50th anniversary
of his Triple Crown!

PHOTO CREDITS: COGLIANESE PHOTOS (TOP); BLOODHORSE LIBRARY (BOTTOM)

Virginia Thoroughbred Association

Breed, Raise, Train in Virginia | *Go to VAbred.org for program details*